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SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

VOLUME III

DAY'S INN CONFERENCE ROOM
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

MARCH 24, 1999

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Mr. Ralph Lohse, Chairman
- Mr. Fred John, Jr., Vice Chairman
- Ms. Clare Swan, Secretary
- Mr. Donald Kompkoff, Sr.
- Mr. Gilbert Dementi
- Mr. Benjamin E. Romig
- Ms. Helga Eakon, Coordinator

P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 8:15 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'd like to call this meeting of the -- spring meeting of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council back in session. We're dealing with proposals, and we're on Proposal 15. Robert.

MR. WILLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Proposal 15 was submitted by the Copper River Native Association and it would modify the general regulations found in the front part of our yellow regulations booklet dealing with the possession and transportation of wildlife. It would eliminate the requirement that portions of the external sex organs remain attached to the carcass to provide evidence of sex for moose and sheep in Units 11 and 13.

Currently the regulation governing evidence of sex and identify reads as follows: If the subsistence take of dall sheep is restricted to a ram, no person may possess or transport a harvested sheep unless both horns accompany the animal. If the subsistence taking of an ungulate except sheep is restricted to one sex in the local area. No person may possess or transport the carcass of an animal taken in that area unless sufficient portions of the external sex organs remain attached to indicate conclusively the sex of the animal.

Identical regulations to these are found in State regulation also.

The current regulation for sheep in Unit 11 allow the harvest of one sheep of either sex. So there's currently no requirement to retain evidence of sex on sheep in Unit 11. In Unit 13, only rams with seven-eighths curl are legal under Federal regulation and only rams with full-curl or greater under State regulations. So therefore, most horns must be brought out with the sheep in Unit 13.

Current regulations for moose in both Units 11 and 13 allow the harvest of antlered bulls only, and therefore, evidence of sex is required in both of those units.

The regulations require a minimum seven-eighths or full-curl horn on dall rams are necessary to make sure that we have sufficient number of breeding age rams in the population to allow the population to continue to be viable before those animals are subjected to harvest. And if the horns are not brought out with the meat of a sheep and

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1 obviously there's no way to determine if that regulation has
2 been complied with, even evidence of sex in the form of
3 external sex organs would not be sufficient.

4
5 In the case of moose, requiring evidence of the
6 external sex organs accomplishes several purposes. First of
7 all, it allows for sufficient enforcement to be sure that
8 only bulls are being harvested. There's been a
9 recommendation made that's substituting antlers for a portion
10 of the external sex organs would be sufficient. But the
11 reason that this regulation was put in place to begin with is
12 that some people were carrying antlers from a previous bull
13 harvest back into the field and then bringing them out with
14 cow meat, and unless you visit the kill site and look at the
15 evidence left on the ground there's no way to determine
16 whether meat comes from a bull or a cow just by observation.

17
18 Secondly, most subsistence hunters don't prefer to
19 bring antlers out, that's considered a sport hunting or
20 trophy hunting issue and leaving a small patch of skin with
21 the scrotum attached to a hindquarter would be much easier to
22 transport than a set of antlers.

23
24 And finally, if we have a regulation requiring a
25 portion of the external sex organs be left on hunts in which
26 -- occur in late season when the bulls have dropped their
27 antlers, it allows us to have late season bull hunts without
28 having to be concerned with antler drop. Currently we don't
29 have any of those hunts in Units 11 and 13, populations are
30 not considered high enough to justify late season hunts, but
31 that doesn't mean that we won't have some in the future.

32
33 Our preliminary conclusion on this proposal was to
34 oppose it. We feel that requiring that the external sex
35 organs remain attached is a reasonable requirement that
36 protects the population. It does not spoil the meat as been
37 previously claimed. I've harvested a number of animals and
38 left sex organs attached as per the regulation and brought
39 them out and have never had a problem. I talked to a number
40 of other hunters in doing this analysis and none of them
41 reported any problem with tainted meat from leaving a portion
42 of the sex organs attached to a hindquarter if the meat was
43 properly cared for to begin with.

44
45 Since this regulation also exists in State regulation
46 and because of the checker board pattern of State and Federal
47 jurisdictions in those two units, removing it from the
48 Federal regulations make enforcement on adjacent State lands
49 very difficult which would be to the detriment of the same
50 populations that move back and forth on to the Federal lands.

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1 That concludes the Staff analysis.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions for Robert.

4 Robert, I've got two that I wrote down while you were
5 talking.

6

7 Are subsistence hunts in 11 and 13 any bull or are
8 they -- they're not spike-fork 50?

9

10 MR. WILLIS: No, they're any bull.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They're any bulls. So that
13 there would be no reason that antlers had to come out, you
14 could leave.....

15

16 MR. WILLIS: No.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:antlers in the field.

19

20 MR. WILLIS: That's correct.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And the other thing I got --
23 and maybe this is a misconception on some people's parts but
24 I got -- when I listened to people talk the other day, I got
25 the idea that some people felt that you had to leave the sex
26 organs attached to the meat while you cared for the meat.
27 You only need to leave the sex organs attached to the meat
28 until you're -- until you quit transporting it, until you're
29 at your place of residence, right?

30

31 MR. WILLIS: That's correct. That regulation
32 that I read goes on to say that this does not apply to the
33 carcass to of an ungulate that has been butchered and placed
34 in storage or otherwise prepared for consumption upon arrival
35 at the location where it is to be consumed.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So once it's out of -- once
38 it's home.....

39

40 MR. WILLIS: Once it's home.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:you can cut that right
43 off?

44

45 MR. WILLIS: Right.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

48

49 MR. WILLIS: I might also add that there was
50 something said that this was not a customary and traditional

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1 practice, obviously if you go back far enough it would not be
2 considered a customary and traditional practice but that
3 argument could be applied to any regulation that we have if
4 you go back far enough in time.

5
6 And we feel that -- in fact, it's stated somewhere in
7 Title VIII that reasonable regulation is to be a part of this
8 program and we feel that this is a reasonable requirement
9 given the number of people that are harvesting moose and the
10 pressures on the population.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

13
14 MR. WILLIS: Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: At this point in time,
17 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

18
19 MR. McDONALD: Mr. Chair, Mike McDonald. Mr.
20 Willis did an excellent job covering the State's concern.
21 The only thing I might add is this is a state wide
22 regulation.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's not just in 11 and 13?

25
26 MR. McDONALD: Not just in 11 and 13.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions. Other agency
29 comments. Are there any other agencies that wish to speak to
30 this? Regional Council recommendations.

31
32 MR. GOOD: Eastern Interior are the Bad Boys
33 that said that this wasn't really a customary and traditional
34 way of handling harvested moose. We did support this
35 proposal, as I might add did the Delta Fish and Game Advisory
36 Committee.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You supported the proposal?

39
40 MR. GOOD: We both supported this, yes.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All right. Okay. Fish and
43 Game Advisory Committee comments. Are there any other Fish
44 and Game Advisories?

45
46 MR. HEUSCHKEL: Good morning, Greg Heuschkel
47 with the Valdez Advisory. We realize it probably wasn't a
48 customary and traditional method but before nobody ever had
49 to distinguish between the sex of an animal or deal with
50 poaching so leaving the evidence of sex attached is vital now

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1 that moose are required to be male.

2

3 It was mentioned, without this law, one set of
4 antlers could be packed back into the field and used to fool
5 enforcement into thinking a cow carcass was a bull. This
6 requirement is needed to protect the resource. And
7 personally, I've done it, it's a pain sometimes to remember
8 when you're gutting, but I've never had any bad meat because
9 of it.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. I've got a
14 question that either maybe Robert of ADF&G could answer it
15 for me.

16

17 How hard or how time consuming or how fast can a
18 sexual determination be made with a biological slide?

19

20 MR. McDONALD: With the system in place,
21 months.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Months?

24

25 MR. McDONALD: Yeah, the overall technique
26 doesn't take that much time, but being able to get it done
27 when you're dealing with forensics and murders, determining
28 the sex of an animal taken in the field isn't a big high
29 priority for most enforcement agencies.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, so it's not something
32 that a field officer could have a kit to do?

33

34 MR. McDONALD: No.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There are no current kits
37 for chromosome detection?

38

39 MR. McDONALD: No.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And since we're
42 dealing with animals here that vary in size, I was thinking
43 the difference between a sheep -- a male sheep of legal size,
44 legal, you know, take is much larger than a female sheep.
45 But with moose, you've got them all the way, if it's just any
46 bull, you've got them all the way to little to big.

47

48 MR. McDONALD: That's correct. And the other
49 thing with sheep is the effort it takes to get to where the
50 sheep are and if somebody was to pack an illegal set of horns

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1 in, that's a lot of effort to go through to bring out.....

2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

4
5 MR. McDONALD:not a great deal of meat.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

8
9 MR. F. JOHN: This just had to deal with
10 moose, doesn't it?

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, this just deals with
13 moose. Any other Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments?
14 Okay, written public comments.

15
16 MS. EAKON: The Upper Tanana Fortymile
17 Advisory Committee supported Proposal 15 saying that please
18 include Unit 12 to this proposal.

19
20 Delta Advisory Committee supported the proposal
21 saying that as long as the antlers remain attached, sex is
22 certainly established. We support the logic of this
23 proposal.

24
25 The Denali National Park and Preserve Subsistence
26 Resource Commission opposed Proposal 15 saying that they
27 recommend retaining the existing regulations governing
28 evidence of sex and identify for the reasons stated in the
29 justification.

30
31 End of written comments.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Public testimony. We
34 have -- okay, I already had Greg. Gloria, no comment?

35
36 MS. STICKWAN: (Nods affirmatively)

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just that you support this
39 since you put it in?

40
41 MS. STICKWAN: (Nods affirmatively)

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, there are no other
44 public testimony. Then a motion to adopt is in order so we
45 can discuss and deliberate.

46
47 MS. SWAN: So moved.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved by Clare.
50 Seconded by Fred, is that what you were shaking your head?

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1 MR. F. JOHN: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Seconded by Fred to adopt
4 Proposal 15. Discussion.

5

6 MR. KOMPKOFF: Question.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You're calling the question?

9

10 MR. KOMPKOFF: Question.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. All in favor of
13 Proposal 15 signify by saying aye.

14

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Opposed signify by saying
18 nay. And I'll say nay to that one because I think there's
19 biological concerns involved here.

20

21 Proposal 16. Robert.

22

23 MR. WILLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Proposal
24 16 was submitted by the Copper River Native Association and
25 it would lengthen the moose season in Unit 11 from the
26 current August 25 to September 20 season to an August 25 to
27 September 25 season. That is it would add five days to the
28 end of the season.

29

30 Currently the Federal regulation is an August 25 to
31 September 20 season with a harvest limit of one antlered
32 bull. The State season in that unit runs from August 20 to
33 September 20 so it starts five days earlier than the Federal
34 subsistence season. However, the harvest limit is one spike-
35 fork 50-inch three brow-tine bull.

36

37 The Federal lands we're dealing with in Unit 11 are
38 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and a very
39 small portion of the Chugach National Forest. The ADF&G
40 surveys for this area and the discussions with the area
41 biologist indicate that moose numbers took a real dive back
42 in the 1990 to 1992 because of deep snow conditions and
43 significant levels of predation from both wolves and bears.
44 Predation remains high and the population is not recovered to
45 a great degree. They consider the moose density in Unit 11
46 to be stable but fairly low with a unit wide estimate of only
47 one bull per two square miles. However, the bull/cow ratios
48 are quite high in that unit. In some parts of it reaching as
49 many as 90 bulls per 100 cows. But on the other hand, calf
50 survival is extremely low due to the heavy levels of

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1 predation, often with fall ratios below 20 calves per 100
2 cows.

3
4 In 1993, the State instituted the spike-fork 50-inch
5 regulation in lieu of the 36-inch minimum antler spread that
6 was in place at the time. However, subsistence hunters were
7 continued to allow to harvest any bull on the Federal lands.
8 The annual harvest since 1993 has averaged 35 bulls with a
9 range of only 30 to 38, so it's been a fairly consistent but
10 fairly low harvest in that area. Local residents take just
11 over half of the moose taken on an average basis, and success
12 rates are quite high for the people who hunt that area
13 regularly. From a low of 15 to as high as 48 percent, which
14 is quite a high success ratio for moose hunting. And about
15 40 to 50 percent of the total harvest takes place during the
16 last week of the hunt which is September 13 to 20.

17
18 The high bull/cow ratio in that unit tells us that
19 some additional bulls could be taken without detriment to the
20 population. However, you run into a problem when you start
21 trying to harvest these animals during the beginnings of the
22 rut. When they're in that period, during the formation
23 period, it takes quite a few days for cows to locate another
24 bull after a herd bull has been shot, once they started this
25 harem formation period in the later part of September. This
26 tends to cause a lot of second estrus breeding because the
27 cows that are in estrus for about a 24 hour period cycle out
28 and don't come in again for about 28 days, which means that a
29 lot of your calves are going to be born late the following
30 summer which makes it that much harder for them to survive
31 into the next winter.

32
33 That's the reason that September 20 has been said is
34 pretty much a standard end for the moose season in most areas
35 that are fairly accessible. In some of the more remote areas
36 where hunting pressure's less and moose numbers are higher,
37 the seasons run later than that. But in fairly accessible
38 areas like Unit 11 and where you have low populations as in
39 Unit 11, it's rather dicey to try to extend a hunting season
40 into the rut without running into problems with late calf
41 production the following year. And as I pointed out earlier,
42 we already have a very low calf production in this area.

43
44 Our recommendation, therefore, is to modify this
45 proposal and recommend an additional five days be added to
46 the beginning of the season rather than the end of the
47 season. As I've said, we have a high bull/cow ratio and we
48 feel that there could be some extra bulls taken out of this
49 unit but to try to harvest them during the beginnings of the
50 rut would have a negative impact on calf production and we

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1 don't think that's an acceptable risk with the low level of
2 calf production that we currently have in that area.

3
4 That concludes the Staff analysis.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions for Robert?

7
8 MS. SWAN: Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.

11
12 MS. SWAN: You said that if it were to be
13 changed at all you would rather add a five days at the
14 beginning of the season?

15
16 MR. WILLIS: That's correct.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Robert, I got a couple
19 again.

20
21 MR. WILLIS: Fire away.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How come -- do they have any
24 idea why the Federal season was five days shorter than the
25 State season to begin with?

26
27 MR. WILLIS: No, I have no idea on that. I
28 would guess it was adopted as part of the State season.
29 There hasn't been much activity as far as changes in the
30 hunting season for moose up there since I've been with the
31 program. And what we usually find when we see an unusual
32 circumstance like that is that the Federal government adopted
33 the State season at the beginning of the program, the State
34 subsequently changed the season in one form or another and we
35 did not pick it up, no one requested a similar change in the
36 Federal regulation.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Another question is,
39 you know, with the high bull count or high bull ratio,
40 whatever you want to call it, don't you feel that if a cow is
41 in estrus, probably another bull is standing by?

42
43 MR. WILLIS: Possibly. That -- you know,
44 that's speculation. That -- it varies a lot with the country
45 as to how fast.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How fast.....

48
49 MR. WILLIS:how fast cows can find
50 another bull. And I'm told that the farther north you go the

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1 longer it takes. That's kind of a general observation. But
2 beyond that, you know, I couldn't speculate.

3
4 We know that when you -- that it does take some time
5 for the cows to adjust to another bull. It's not just a
6 matter of looking around and saying, okay, there's another
7 bull, bulls establish dominance as you well know. And the
8 dominant bulls are the ones that breed the cows. When you
9 take out a dominate bull who's already gathering a harem of
10 cows, then there has to be a shuffle among the other bulls
11 and the cows have to be accustomed to that new bull. And as
12 I say, they're in estrus for only 24 hours.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

15
16 MR. WILLIS: So even a day's delay can create
17 problems.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And do you think it's a
20 problem with low calf production or just low calf survival?

21
22 MR. WILLIS: Low calf survival, I think.
23 That would be my guess.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

26
27 MR. WILLIS: We know there's high levels of
28 predation in that unit. And what we find is with wolves,
29 especially, and -- well, bears and wolves, even when prey
30 populations crash as the moose did during the early '90s, the
31 predators are adaptable enough, they use other prey species
32 to maintain their numbers at a significantly higher level.
33 If there is this alternative prey available, then they can
34 keep the ungulates from building back up because they've got
35 a head start on them numbers wise. And we think that's
36 probably what's happening in Unit 11.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think you're probably
39 right on that because after -- my current observation is I've
40 seen more wolf tracks this winter than I've seen in any time
41 in the last 25 years. I mean we have a fairly high wolf
42 population and lots of bears.

43
44 Now, the idea of the fact that -- then that calf is
45 born a month later, basically is what it boils down to so
46 that ends up giving the bears two sets of calves to predate
47 on instead of if all the calves are born at the same time
48 some of them survive simply because the bear's too busy.

49
50 MR. WILLIS: That's true enough. The main

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1 problem though is that the calves are smaller going into the
2 next winter.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Calves are smaller going
5 into the next winter?

6
7 MR. WILLIS: The calves are smaller and they
8 just have a harder time surviving the following winter.

9
10 MR. KOMPKOFF: Some calves have two.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Some cows.....

13
14 MR. KOMPKOFF: Yes, I mean cows.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, yeah. Any other
17 questions for Robert. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

18
19 MR. McDONALD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
20 agree with Mr. Willis' analysis there. And he's correct in
21 saying that there are more bulls out there that could be
22 harvested. But certainly the best time to harvest them would
23 be earlier in the season before the rut.

24
25 One of the reasons that this would be probably a
26 little bit different situation, if it was down in this area
27 because of the density of moose, higher densities of moose
28 and then you'd be correct in saying that another bull could
29 step in pretty rapidly. But you'll see that in our -- in the
30 Fish and Game State management objectives, that bull/cow
31 ratios tend to be much higher the further north you get
32 because of the lower densities and the moose are more spread
33 out. It's much more difficult then for the cows and the
34 bulls to meet up again. It's like having a hundred marbles
35 out on the table versus 10 marbles out on the table. The
36 chances of one hitting the other decrease.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can I make a comment on
39 that?

40
41 MR. McDONALD: Sure.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But if all the marbles are
44 at one end of the table, the density is greater. And one of
45 the things that you'll find, I know, in Unit 11 is that
46 they're not -- at that time of the year they're not spread
47 out. They're -- the moose have a tendency to be at a certain
48 level on the hillsides, you know, they're not spread out
49 across -- they're not scattered across the whole Unit 11,
50 they're on certain kinds of hillsides in a certain kind of a

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1 band. So your moose are more concentrated while there are a
2 smaller number of them. You don't just find moose anywhere
3 in that unit, you know, they are concentrated.

4
5 I had another question for you but I can't remember
6 what it was, from what you just said. Oh, I know what I was
7 going to comment on, one of the things -- I don't know if it
8 is response to you or Robert. The idea of taking moose
9 earlier in the season from a subsistence standpoint, means
10 that you have to get it into cold storage and everything a
11 lot faster. I know that in our country out there, a moose
12 that's taken at the end of September, you don't have to do
13 anything with it except hang and you can keep it all the way
14 into winter. Where a moose that's taken in August, you have
15 to butcher and put in cold storage. And so for a lot of
16 people that are in the bush, the later season is much more
17 applicable than the earlier season if it isn't detrimental to
18 the biological resource.

19
20 Can you make any comment on that?

21
22 MR. McDONALD: I mean I can't disagree with
23 you, certainly. I mean we have seasons much earlier than
24 that, too.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I know.

27
28 MR. McDONALD: So.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I know. Any questions for
31 ADF&G? Don.

32
33 MR. KOMPKEFF: No.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, thank you. Next would
36 be other agency comments. Eastern Interior. The only reason
37 I'm asking Eastern Interior is now members of Eastern
38 Interior have access to moose in Unit 11.

39
40 MR. GOOD: Right. Eastern Interior did
41 support this proposal as modified by the Staff. The Regional
42 Council agreed that with the Staff justification, that the
43 proposal is not consistent with the conservation of a healthy
44 moose population and adding five days at the beginning season
45 aligning with the State season would provide additional
46 opportunity for subsistence harvest, while protecting the
47 moose population. So yes, we did support it.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

50

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1 MR. GOOD:as modified.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Are there any
4 other agencies? Fish and Game Advisory Committees. Agency
5 or Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Frank?

6

7 MR. ENTSMINGER: Fish and Game Advisory
8 Committee.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

11

12 MR. ENTSMINGER: Good morning, my name's
13 Frank Entsminger for Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory
14 Committee. Yeah, I believe our committee looked at this
15 proposal before Staff analysis. You know, we basically
16 supported the proposal. But you know, knowing our committee
17 and what not, I don't think they'd have any problems with
18 supporting the modified Staff analysis on it.

19

20 We just basically wanted to optimize opportunity for
21 hunters up there. And because there was a healthy moose
22 population up there we felt that, you know, additional
23 hunting days would be appropriate.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any questions
26 for Frank? Okay. Written testimony, Helga.

27

28 MS. EAKON: The Delta Advisory Committee
29 opposed Proposal 16 saying that this proposal would make
30 moose season an entire month long. Moose populations cannot
31 support this kind of pressure.

32

33 End of comments.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is that all the written
36 comments?

37

38 MS. EAKON: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Public testimony. CRNA.

41

42 MR. PETE: Good morning, Mr. Chair, Vice
43 Chair and the Board. I'm here to represent the Copper River
44 Native Association. I was on the Board of Copper River
45 Native Association and I'm from the Native Village of Kutiki
46 in Copper Center. So before I talk about Proposal 16, we --
47 the Native -- the Copper River Native Association supported
48 the Kenai Kenaitze Tribe for rural residents status.

49

50 Okay. I'm here to talk about Proposal 16 to extend

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1 the moose season for Unit 11. The proposed season dates are
2 August 25th to September 25th. Here we -- first of all I'd
3 like to respect and we support your comments to have -- to
4 extend the moose season five days earlier because of the
5 rutting season and all that. So we supported the -- I mean
6 we don't mind to have the moose season five days earlier, and
7 as a -- as a Native, I -- because I talked to my elders and
8 -- all the time and they told me if you catch your moose
9 early, there are ways to preserve it, you know. You could
10 leave your moose out there in the -- and the meat can be
11 spoiled, you know, if you know how to preserve the meat and
12 -- in the olden days they used to use birch bark, you know.
13 They laid it on the birch bark and they cut the meat and they
14 lay it on the birch bark and they put another birch bark over
15 it and so it keeps the meat fresh all the time. That's one
16 way that you could preserve the meat, you know, if you can't
17 take it out right away.

18
19 And we -- it was the Ahtna people that used to hunt
20 and they settled up on that side up the river before it was
21 Unit 11. And the Federal lands provide the best hunting
22 opportunity to get the moose for our families. And then
23 impact -- on the Federal land in Unit 13 is so impacted
24 because many hunters always come up there and so we -- we may
25 have to hunt on Unit 11 to get a moose for the family. It is
26 hard to get moose during the hunting season because people
27 within Unit 13 was -- we need to have -- it was Unit 11 was
28 open to hunt on.

29
30 A longer moose season is given to other units and a
31 longer season should be allowed for Unit 11, too. The last
32 time I harvested moose was years ago but it was lately I have
33 been helping elders to get their moose, but in the last year
34 we didn't get one because of the too many hunters that were
35 hunting where -- where we used to hunt. And adding five days
36 for the -- it was local qualified subsistence users will not
37 adversely effect the moose population. It's liberalizing
38 Copper and we see a lot of moose, you know, a lot of bull in
39 -- and we have moose on our side of the river but on the
40 other side of the river there is some moose, but you know,
41 there is a lot of moose, though, you know, predators and --
42 and all that was over there.

43
44 And people have traditionally hunt moose from August
45 month until the rutting season, you know, during the last
46 part of September, but you know, long ago they used to hunt
47 the -- during the winter, too, so you know, moose meat there
48 is most -- is the main meal on the table at all times, you
49 know, when you have -- there's moose cooked in the oven, you
50 know, you're going to have a meal so that's why we -- we

00339

1 support this proposal here.

2

3 So we just need the meat for our family and we need
4 to have subsistence needs meet by -- to have longer hunting
5 in Unit 11.

6

7 And I like to thank everybody for listening to my
8 comments. Thanks.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions from Council
11 for Ken? Ken, can I ask you a question.

12

13 MR. F. JOHN: Carl.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Carl, okay, I'm sorry.
16 Carl, I didn't hear -- did I understand right, that CRNA
17 supports the modification that Robert Willis said, to have it
18 five days earlier.....

19

20 MR. PETE: Yes, we do.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:instead of five days
23 later?

24

25 MR. PETE: Yes, we will support it.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You'll support that?

28

29 MR. PETE: Yes, five days earlier.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

32

33 MR. F. JOHN: I got a question, Carl.

34

35 MR. PETE: Uh-huh.

36

37 MR. F. JOHN: Would you rather have five days
38 later than five days earlier if you have a chance?

39

40 MR. PETE: Well, if the moose population or
41 the calf population is down, we would like to have it, you
42 know, earlier.

43

44 MR. F. JOHN: Uh-huh.

45

46 MR. PETE: But if the population of the moose
47 is up, you know, we wouldn't mind having it five days later
48 because the meat is still good, you know, in the first five
49 days of the -- you know, even rutting season.

50

00340

1 MR. F. JOHN: For subsistence.....

2
3 MR. PETE: Yeah.

4
5 MR. F. JOHN:hunters like Copper
6 Center, would it be better five days later than five days
7 later?

8
9 MR. PETE: Yes.

10
11 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah.

12
13 MR. PETE: Well, it would be better for five
14 days later, you know, for the.....

15
16 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah.

17
18 MR. PETE:for the preserve of -- you
19 know, to preserve the meat easier, you know. It's easier to
20 take care of the meat.

21
22 MR. F. JOHN: Okay, another question. If the
23 moose is not extended either way, would it make subsistence
24 hunters outlaws? Like we have in our area, you know, during
25 the hunting season, there is so much impact of hunters, we
26 don't even hunt and most of us we had to hunt out of the
27 season and break the law and everything. So I mean the moose
28 are driven so far back and everything, if there's no extended
29 season from where -- you know, Upper Ahtna area.....

30
31 MR. PETE: Uh-huh.

32
33 MR. F. JOHN:we're all considered law
34 breakers. I was thinking about -- if it's not extended
35 either way, would it help subsistence hunters to get moose,
36 like are we compromising again if we go back the first five
37 days before like we always have compromised or.....

38
39 MR. PETE: Oh, no, we -- it wouldn't matter
40 if that was five days before or five days later.

41
42 MR. F. JOHN: Uh-huh.

43
44 MR. PETE: So.....

45
46 MR. F. JOHN: But you rather have it five
47 days later?

48
49 MR. PETE: Yes, if the moose population -- or
50 the calf population is up, we wouldn't mind having it five

00341

1 days later.

2

3 MR. F. JOHN: The same time I'm asking you a
4 question Carl, I was trying to make a comment on my own.

5

6 MR. PETE: Oh.

7

8 MR. F. JOHN: I'll probably make it later on
9 of what I'm trying to say in my area.

10

11 MR. PETE: Oh, okay.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Carl, can I ask one more
14 question?

15

16 MR. PETE: Yes.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically you're -- the
19 bottom line is you're as concerned about the moose population
20 as you are which end of the season gets extended?

21

22 MR. PETE: Yes, uh-huh.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

25

26 MR. PETE: Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is there any other public
29 testimony? Okay, Regional Council recommendation,
30 justification. A motion is in order to put this proposal on
31 the table. We can either put it on the table as it stands,
32 as modif -- as suggested modified or.....

33

34 MR. F. JOHN: I make a motion to put the
35 proposal on the table as is, Proposal 16.

36

37 MR. KOMPKOFF: I'll second the motion.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Donald Kompkoff seconds it.
40 Okay, discussion. An amendment can be added at any time if
41 somebody wants to do that, too.

42

43 MR. F. JOHN: Well, I'd like to say I support
44 this proposal as is because it seems like as subsistence
45 hunters we always have to compromise to the State, compromise
46 everything that we live for for sport hunters and you know,
47 the city of Anchorage and Fairbanks. And I don't -- I really
48 don't believe in -- I believe in the, you know, the moose
49 population should be kept at a good healthy rate and all
50 that, but I -- I think that -- I really believe that the

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1 State should cut theirs back and give the subsistence hunter
2 a chance to survive and not to be outlaws and so that's my
3 stand on this.

4
5 I don't think it's going to hurt anything to have
6 five days more extension at the end of the season. I believe
7 it's better for subsistence hunters, that time, than at the
8 beginning. And I'm going to support this without any
9 changes.

10
11 MS. SWAN: Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Clare.

14
15 MS. SWAN: The subsistence -- subsistence use
16 end of it is, that's quite important also but the bottom line
17 remains, to me, that you need to have something to hunt. And
18 for that reason, the biological reason, I would -- I like the
19 five day earlier, modification. And I understand, I really
20 understand. It's kind of hurtful, you know, to know that
21 people -- what the hunting situation is for people who live
22 up there.

23
24 The other side of it is, in my experience, I talked
25 to my husband this morning, I live in Kenai and we have not
26 two, but three dead calves in our yard. We live just outside
27 of Kenai. They're small calves, they're really tiny calves.
28 And I didn't realize that -- you know, I knew they were born
29 late, they had to be, they're just -- but -- I mean it's just
30 a matter -- I think it's a toss up of having -- comes out
31 kind of, there's a wash there, are you going to have anything
32 to hunt, are you going to, in the long run, because there's
33 more factors than the hunters -- the added hunters.

34
35 So you know, I would support this proposal -- I
36 support the proposal but I like -- but if they're going to do
37 anything, I think they need to put the five days earlier.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Don.

40
41 MR. KOMPKOFF: Yes, I agree with Fred on the
42 five days after the season. Because I don't think five days
43 is going to make that much difference, really.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gilbert.

46
47 MR. DEMENTI: In my area, it's 13(E), it's
48 pretty high altitude and the moose start the rut real early
49 because I've shot moose September 20th, the last day of moose
50 season and they were rutting. And I've shot moose September

00343

1 12th and they had a harem already.

2

3 So I'm stuck between what to do here. I'm actually
4 in -- for my area, I'm in favor of an earlier season just
5 because if a person shoots a big bull as late as September
6 25th, it -- I think it's start rutting there and the meat
7 will be -- you know, you could hardly eat it. And the ones
8 I've shot late, man, I make hamburger out of it and it's
9 still pretty strong. So I'll be in favor of the earlier
10 season just because my area is.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, it's kind of a toss up
13 for me. I, myself, would prefer the later season. I know
14 my neighbors would prefer the later season. I know people
15 who live out in the bush, a lot of us don't have freezers and
16 a lot of us, in order to use a freezer have to run a power
17 plant and all that kind of good stuff to try to keep it
18 going.

19

20 My inclination is to vote for the late season but at
21 the same time, what Clare pointed out is very true. And I
22 never gave that a thought before. I just took for granted --
23 I just always took for granted that if there were other bulls
24 around and a cow came into estrus she was going to get breed,
25 it didn't matter whether she wanted to or not. I mean I just
26 took for granted that's what moose were like, you know. And
27 I know that's true in deer populations. Because there'd be
28 more than one buck chasing the same doe. And they get breed
29 more than once when they're in estrus unless there's a real
30 dominate buck there that can hold the other bucks off.

31

32 But that -- what Clare just said, the Kenai has a lot
33 of hunting pressure and a lot of hunting pressure right at
34 the start of the rut, and if she's got three young calves
35 dead in her yard right now, that means a lot of cows got
36 breed late. And on a deep snow winter or with predators,
37 they don't survive.

38

39 So as much as I'd like to have the September 25th
40 season personally, and my neighbors would like to have the
41 25th season, and I go along with Fred, if something has to be
42 cut, by law, it should be the other season that's cut. You
43 know, it's real incongruent to me to see the subsistence
44 season shorter than the sport hunting season. And maybe some
45 day there's going to have to be the other hunting season
46 ending on September 15th and the subsistence season going to
47 September 20th because that would give the subsistence hunter
48 that kind of an advantage.

49

50 So I would support, if somebody makes an amendment to

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1 modify it to an earlier date at this point in time, I'll
2 support the proposal.

3
4 MS. SWAN: So moved.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Otherwise I'm going to have
7 to vote against it.

8
9 MS. SWAN: I move for the amendment, Mr.
10 Chairman.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You make an amendment to
13 open it five days earlier instead of five days later?

14
15 MS. SWAN: Yes.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second?

18
19 MR. DEMENTI: Second.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Second by Gilbert.

22
23 MR. F. JOHN: I'd just like to say one more
24 time, as a subsistence person, I'm going to compromise again.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's right, I know.

27
28 MR. F. JOHN: It seems like we always do that
29 and I just want to make that statement. It seems like the
30 subsistence people are always compromising more than any
31 other user group and it is kind of said.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Don.

34
35 MR. KOMPKOFF: I agree with Fred, we're going
36 to compromise, too.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I think most of life
39 is compromising. None of us get exactly what we want.

40
41 MR. F. JOHN: Not as much as subsistence
42 hunters.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We have an amendment
45 on the floor. First we have to vote on the amendment and
46 then vote on the proposal. The amendment is that we open the
47 subsistence hunt on August 20th and close it on September
48 20th.

49
50 All in -- if there is no further discussion on the

00345

1 amendment.

2

3 MR. F. JOHN: Question.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been called. All
6 in favor signify by saying aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Opposed signify by saying
11 nay.

12

13 (No opposing responses)

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It carries unanimously.
16 Now, we have an amended proposal on the floor. Proposal 16,
17 as amended reads that the subsistence hunt in Unit 11 will
18 run from August 20th to September 20th.

19

20 MR. DEMENTI: So moved.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Are you calling the
23 question?

24

25 MR. DEMENTI: (Nods affirmatively)

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been called. All
28 in favor signify by saying aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Opposed signify by saying
33 nay.

34

35 (No opposing responses)

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Are you abstaining on this
38 one, Fred?

39

40 MR. F. JOHN: What did you say, September
41 20th?

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, it's August 20th to
44 September 20th?

45

46 MR. F. JOHN: Okay, yeah. I just got mixed
47 up there.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, motion carries.

50

00346

1 MS. EAKON: Did you vote on the amended
2 proposal?

3
4 MR. F. JOHN: Yes.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, motion carries. And I
7 agree with you on that one, Fred.

8
9 Okay, let's go on to Proposal 17 and 52. The
10 requested increase in harvest limit of coyote in Units 11 and
11 12.

12
13 MR. WILLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Proposal
14 17 is a Southcentral proposal. Proposal 52 is an Eastern
15 Interior proposal.

16
17 Both deal with the number of coyotes that can be
18 taken by hunting in Unit 12, although the Southcentral
19 proposal also covers Unit 11. We'll cover these together.
20 There's only one difference between them actually as relates
21 to Unit 12, and that is, that Proposal 52 recommends that no
22 more than two coyotes can be taken before October 1st. And
23 the reason for that being a question of pelt quality. Now,
24 this is contained in the State regulation also.

25
26 Currently the Federal subsistence regulations for
27 coyotes in Units 11 and 12 provide for a season of September
28 1 to April 30 with a harvest limit of two coyotes in both
29 units. The State regulations in Unit 11 are identical to the
30 Federal regulations, however, in Unit 12 the harvest limit is
31 10 coyotes, only two of which can be taken before October 1.
32 Under trapping regulations, both Federal and State, there is
33 no limit on the number of coyotes that can be taken.

34
35 Again, we're dealing with Federal lands of Wrangell-
36 St. Elias National Park and the Chugach National Forest and
37 over in Unit 12, the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge. The
38 only data we have on coyote abundance in these areas is from
39 the responses that we get from trappers or that ADF&G gets
40 from their trapper questionnaire. This information,
41 discussions with the ADF&G biologists in those two units, and
42 trapper responses to the questionnaires indicates that coyote
43 populations are pretty high but the harvest level is fairly
44 low. Partly due to the fact that coyotes are hard to trap
45 and partly because of the low prices that are currently being
46 paid for pelts.

47
48 Shooting coyotes under a hunting license provides an
49 additional opportunity for people to take coyotes while
50 they're hunting other species or while they're running

00347

1 traplines. So it does provide for some increase in harvest
2 by those methods.

3
4 Coyotes generally travel in open areas and they're
5 susceptible to being called in by predator calls so there is
6 some opportunity for increased subsistence harvest through an
7 increase in the limit provided by the hunting season.

8
9 We recommend that these proposals be supported and we
10 -- although the Southcentral proposal did not contain it, the
11 limitation of only two coyotes prior to October 1st would be
12 consistent with harvesting belts while they're prime but
13 still allow the opportunity for people to take two coyotes if
14 they see them while they're hunting other species early in
15 the season. The coyote population in these units appear to
16 be healthy. There's currently no limit on the number that
17 can be taken by trapping and certainly the great majority of
18 them are taken in that manner anyway. So we think these
19 proposals would have no negative impact on the population but
20 would provide some additional opportunity for harvest by
21 subsistence users.

22
23 That concludes the Staff analysis.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions for Robert? I
26 have one question, Robert. I am under the impression that if
27 you have a trapper's license and trapping season is open you
28 can shoot coyotes anyhow under that trapping license, you
29 don't have to have them in the trap?

30
31 MR. WILLIS: There are separate regulations
32 for hunting and trapping. I can't answer your question,
33 Ralph. Maybe if Bill Knauer -- Bill Knauer's our regulation
34 specialist, if he's here today.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Or the Fish and Game can
37 answer it when they come up.

38
39 MR. KNAUER: Your statement is correct except
40 in the Park. The Park Service, I believe, regulations do not
41 include the shooting of free ranging animals under a trapping
42 license.

43
44 MR. WILLIS: That's what I was trying to
45 think of Mr. Chair. And that's the main reason for
46 increasing the limit under the hunting license. I know that
47 that statement had been made sometime in the past but I
48 couldn't pull off the top of my head this early in the
49 morning.

50

00348

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I'm glad I didn't know
2 that a couple of times.

3
4 MR. KOMPKOFF: Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Don.

7
8 MR. KOMPKOFF: In Valdez, I've seen two about
9 a half a mile from town this year, and also one over across
10 the bay by Davehill Roads (ph) there. And they're coming
11 down in Tatitlek in the garbage. And I don't know, it just
12 seems like they're getting more and more down in Prince
13 William Sound. I also seen one in Fish Bay and they're just
14 -- it seems like the coyote population is getting -- coming
15 towards and killing off the deer in the Prince William Sound
16 area.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You'll be happy to know
19 they're on Hinchinbrook Island now. ADF&G.

20
21 MR. McDONALD: Mr. Chair, we'd support the
22 proposal.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Support the proposal, as
25 written?

26
27 MR. McDONALD: As written.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you. Okay,
30 other agency comments. Eastern Interior.

31
32 MR. GOOD: Eastern Interior also supported
33 the proposal with the modification from the Upper Tanana
34 Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee recommendation of
35 no more than two coyotes to be harvested before October 1st.

36
37 And this would also reflect our support of Proposal
38 52 as well. The Regional Council supported the additional
39 harvest with modification because of the increased
40 subsistence harvest opportunity and the current coyote
41 populations are healthy -- perhaps more than healthy and can
42 withstand the additional harvest.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Fish and Game
45 Advisory Committee comments.

46
47 MR. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chair, Council members.
48 Yeah, Upper Tanana, you know, supported these proposals and
49 primarily what prompted the proposals other than, you know,
50 wanting to have a -- you know, a little bit better

00349

1 opportunity to harvest coyotes and wolves was the fact that
2 under Park regulations you can't shoot a free ranging
3 furbearer. And we felt, you know, for the few people that
4 trapped in the Park or may want to go in there and -- with
5 calls, it would give them additional harvest opportunity and,
6 you know, we felt the resource could sustain the additional
7 harvest. And we don't really feel there that will be that
8 much more additional harvest but at least for a few people it
9 would provide an additional opportunity.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Valdez Fish and
12 Game, any comment on that one? Or Valdez Fish and Game
13 Advisory Committee is what I meant. Written comments.

14
15 MS. EAKON: Proposal 17, the Wrangell-St.
16 Elias Subsistence Resource Commission gives a tentative
17 support saying that the resource can sustain additional
18 harvest opportunities.

19
20 The Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee
21 submitted identical comments for 17 and 52. Saying, combine
22 Proposal 52 with Proposal 17 for Units 11 and 12, we support
23 an increased bag limit while allowing no more than two
24 coyotes to be harvested before October 1.

25
26 Delta Advisory Committee supported Proposal 17.
27 Proposal 52.

28
29 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission
30 said align Federal coyote season in Unit 12 with State
31 season. No resource concerns. SRC supports both Proposals
32 52 and 17.

33
34 End of written comments.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, is there any public
37 testimony on this one? Gloria.

38
39 MS. STICKWAN: We supported the proposal.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Okay, a motion
42 to put these proposals on the table are in order.

43
44 MR. F. JOHN: I make a motion.

45
46 MS. SWAN: Second.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and seconded
49 to put these proposals on the table. As was pointed out,
50 they slightly differ. One of them allows only two coyotes

00350

1 prior to October 20th -- 21st. The other one does not make
2 that stipulation.

3
4 MR. WILLIS: October 1st.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: October 1st. If we were to
7 amend them to be the same we can do that at this point in
8 time or if we feel there is no need to do that we can do
9 that. If we do it to October 1st, we align it with the State
10 season.

11
12 Any comment?

13
14 MS. SWAN: Just a question. You mean that --
15 the State -- that that's the take, no more than two coyotes,
16 that goes with the State, along with that also or no?

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. The State season says
19 that no more than two coyotes before October 1st.

20
21 MS. SWAN: Okay.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Wait a second, I may have to
24 stand corrected.

25
26 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Terry Haynes,
27 Department of Fish and Game. Just to clarify that if you
28 support the proposal to allow harvest of 10 coyotes in Unit
29 11, only two before October 1st, that will not be consistent
30 with the State regulation. The current State regulation
31 where two can be taken before October 1st is for Unit 12.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

34
35 MR. HAYNES: So there would be some.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, there is no before
38 October 1st in Unit 11?

39
40 MR. HAYNES: Not for Unit 11.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So we can just leave
43 it the way the proposal stands and we'll be in line with the
44 State season. Am I correct on that, Robert?

45
46 MR. WILLIS: I believe the cleanest way to do
47 that might be to support both proposals as written.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

50

00351

1 MR. WILLIS: That way the one in Unit 11
2 would line up with the State regulation there and the one in
3 Unit 12 would line up with the State regulations in Unit 12.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's how we have them on
6 the table, as written. So any discussion, deliberation,
7 recommendation, comments.

8
9 No comments?

10
11 MR. KOMPCKOFF: I got one. When I trapped up
12 60 miles out of Valdez , there was a few up there but they
13 were really hard to catch but now they're coming down to
14 Valdez. And I don't know if we have a certain place that we
15 could hunt down there, you got to use bow and arrows -- go
16 back to the old bow and arrow system to get my -- to get
17 coyote close to Valdez. So I'm buying a new bow and arrow
18 this year.

19
20 MR. F. JOHN: I want to make a comment, too.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What?

23
24 MR. F. JOHN: I want to make a comment, too.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.

27
28 MR. F. JOHN: When did the coyotes came to
29 our area, just a short time ago, didn't it?

30
31 MR. WILLIS: Just in the recent past. Fred,
32 I can't answer that exactly. Probably someone -- Ralph's
33 probably been in this country longer than anyone. He
34 probably has a better idea of when they came to the Prince
35 William Sound area.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I think I know why
38 Fred asked that question. I always heard the coyotes came
39 when the White men came. That they followed the gold miners
40 up and followed the dead horses up the trails through Canada.
41 Coyotes, if you go back into old history you don't find any
42 mention of coyotes in Alaska. I know that they're spreading
43 in Prince William Sound. What Donald was saying, we -- we
44 used to have a deer population that responded real fast to
45 crashes because there was no predators, the only thing that
46 effected the deer population on the islands on Prince William
47 Sound was winters, and we've had coyotes now get to
48 Hinchinbrook Island, and this winter friends of mine have
49 seen two wolves over on Hinchinbrook Island.

50

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1 And Hinchinbrook Island is separated by -- you could
2 almost walk across at low tide from Hawkins Island, so it
3 won't be very long and they'll be coyotes and wolves on
4 Hawkins Island and it's just a short swim to Montague and so
5 the deer population in Prince William Sound will have
6 predators and that will make a big difference in how fast
7 they respond to a hard winter like this winter.

8
9 So coyotes in our area have always been there for as
10 long as I've been there. Up in Unit 11, I haven't been there
11 that long, but for the 30 years that I've been there we've
12 had a high coyote population. And one of the places they
13 concentrate is right down in the Crystalline Hills where the
14 sheep are pushed in the -- in the winter time are pushed down
15 on the slopes and we do have a fair amount of coyote
16 predation on young sheep, you know, small sheep in that area.
17 They hang around there pretty good.

18
19 MR. WILLIS: I could add a little historical
20 comment in relation to coyotes following the White man into
21 this country, that may have been coincidental. I spent my
22 life in the southeastern United States and prior to about
23 1970 there were no coyotes west of the Mississippi River in
24 that area. About that time they began spreading toward the
25 east for no apparent reason and now go all the way to the
26 east coast with quite high populations in states that had
27 none in the 1960s. So it may be that they -- there's
28 something else moving them Fred besides the White man.

29
30 We refuse to take the blame for everything.

31
32 MR. F. JOHN: Question.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been called to
35 increase limit on coyote to 10, if I remember right.

36
37 MR. F. JOHN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All in favor signify by
40 saying aye.

41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Opposed signify by saying
45 nay.

46
47 (No opposing responses)

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries unanimously.
50 Let's go on to Proposal 18. Robert.

00353

1 MR. WILLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Proposal
2 18 is very similar to Proposal 17. It also was submitted by
3 the Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee.
4 It would increase the hunting harvest limit on wolves on
5 Units 11 and 12 from five wolves to 10 wolves.

6
7 In the interest of time, if you'd like, I'll skip
8 over some of the biological data and say that we have healthy
9 populations of wolves in both of these units. And again, the
10 Park there is a regulation in the Park against shooting free
11 ranging wolves under a trapping license. So the same
12 situation exists as with the coyotes.

13
14 There is one difference, in that, wolves are not
15 nearly as susceptible to being taken by ground hunters as
16 coyotes. They don't travel in the open areas as often and
17 they are not very susceptible to predator calling. So we
18 anticipate a minimal increase in harvest, even with the
19 increase of the harvest limit from five wolves to 10 wolves
20 that's being recommended in this proposal.

21
22 Staff supports this proposal because we think that
23 the wolf population is certainly high enough to sustain the
24 additional harvest. We think additional harvest will be
25 limited but it will provide the subsistence user with an
26 increased opportunity.

27
28 That concludes the Staff analysis.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any questions
31 for Robert? In the interest of brevity, I won't ask you a
32 question. ADF&G.

33
34 MR. HAYNES: We support it.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You support it, okay.
37 Eastern Interior.

38
39 MR. GOOD: Can I sit back and say we support
40 it, too?

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't why not, as long as
43 the Recorder can get it. Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

44
45 MR. ENTSMINGER: We're the proponent and we
46 support it.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Written public
49 comments.

50

00354

1 MS. EAKON: Proposal 18 is supported by Upper
2 Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee, by Delta Fish and Game
3 Advisory Committee and by Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence
4 Resource Commission.

5
6 End of comments.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I forgot to ask for any
9 other agency comments. Was there any comments from the Park
10 Service or -- no comments from the Park Service then. Public
11 testimony. I've got CRNA down as testifying on this one.

12
13 MS. STICKWAN: We support it.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You support it. Okay,
16 Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and
17 justification, which means we need to put a motion on the
18 table to support Proposal 18 so we can have it open for
19 discussion.

20
21 MS. SWAN: So moved.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved by Clare.

24
25 MR. KOMPKOFF: Second.

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Seconded by Don.
28 Discussion. Have you heard sufficient that you can vote on
29 it?

30
31 MR. F. JOHN: Question.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been called. All
34 in favor signify by saying aye.

35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Opposed signify by saying
39 nay.

40
41 (No opposing responses)

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: One of the main reasons -- as
44 justification, one of the main reasons that I think we can
45 support this without much discussion is the fact that this
46 predation by wolves has come up in so many of our issues that
47 we definitely support anything that would help address that
48 predation. Without that predation we could have had that
49 lengthened moose season.

50

00355

1 Okay, Proposal 19. And who do we have presenting?

2
3 MS. MASON: Me.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Rachel.

6
7 MS. MASON: Proposal 19 was submitted by the
8 Copper River Native Association and it requests a positive
9 C&T for black bear in Unit 13 for the residents of Cantwell,
10 Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Gakona, Gulkana,
11 Mentasta and Tazlina. This is a proposal that was deferred
12 by the Federal Subsistence Board in 1998.

13
14 Currently there's no determination for black bear in
15 Unit 13. However, for both caribou and moose, all of the
16 residents of Unit 13 have a positive C&T in 13 and while it's
17 a little bit more complex for residents of 11, 12 and 20(D)
18 but suffice to say that at least some of the residents of
19 Unit 12 and of 20(D) have C&T for caribou and moose in some
20 areas of Unit 13, and as you know, there are some requests to
21 change the C&T determinations for caribou in Unit 13(B) and
22 (C) that you considered yesterday.

23
24 The reason I mention these is because in past years,
25 the Federal Subsistence Board has supported matching the C&T
26 determinations for black bear with those for caribou and
27 moose in recognition of the opportunistic nature of
28 subsistence black bear hunting.

29
30 As you know from other black bear proposals,
31 traditionally black bear has been an important meat to the
32 residents of the areas effected by the proposals. At
33 present, black bear meat contributes less overall than other
34 resources to the diet of the residents of the area but it's
35 still an integral part of the array of subsistence resources
36 that are used. And according to ADF&G, Division of
37 Subsistence Harvest Studies, although black bear harvests
38 have been low, the Ahtna communities have reported some
39 harvest and use of black bear in 1982 and 1987.

40
41 And like the other people that are effected by this
42 proposal, the Ahtna -- actually both Native and non-Native
43 people have traditionally harvested the black bear in the
44 same areas that they use for moose and caribou.

45
46 So the conclusion was to modify the proposal giving a
47 positive C&T for black bear in Unit 13 to the residents of
48 Unit 13 and the community of Chickaloon, Unit 11, Unit 12 and
49 Units 20(A), (C) and (D) except for Fort Greely, so this
50 would include the eight villages that were part of the

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1 original proposal. And again, the justification is to be
2 that -- that this very broad modification is intended to
3 recognize that the subsistence users in the region tend to
4 harvest black bear in the same areas that they utilize for
5 moose and caribou. And although the current C&T
6 determinations for caribou and moose may change, the
7 recommendation is to be inclusive rather than exclusive.

8
9 That's it.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Rachel, can I ask you a
12 question?

13
14 MS. MASON: Sure.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Isn't that just the rural
17 residents of Unit 13? I mean.....

18
19 MS. MASON: Are there.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:isn't it -- I mean I
22 don't think there are any that aren't?

23
24 MS. MASON: Right.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But I think we included that
27 once upon a time in our original discussion, with the idea
28 that in case some place ever gets that it's not rural, it was
29 only the rural residents of Unit 13.

30
31 MS. MASON: Okay. Well, that.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But it's automatically
34 follows.....

35
36 MS. MASON: Yes.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:that it would only be
39 rural residents?

40
41 MS. MASON: It's always rural residents.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

44
45 MS. MASON:of the unit.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

48
49 MR. KOMPKOFF: It says all rural residents,
50 right?

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1 MS. MASON: Yes. I think that all of our
2 determinations are for that.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any questions for
5 Rachel? No questions. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

6
7 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Department
8 supports the Staff recommendation to modify this proposal.
9 The original proposal would not take in some people in
10 communities that probably do have a customary and traditional
11 use of black bear in Unit 13.

12
13 We are concerned that there is one adjoining subunit
14 that is not included in the analysis and that is Unit 16(A).
15 There are rural residents living along the Petersville Road,
16 and that borders Unit 13 also. And we don't know if there
17 was evidence available to indicate that those people do not
18 have a customary and traditional use of black bear in Unit
19 13. We don't have -- our division has done work in that area
20 but we don't have map documentation. But we thought there
21 should be some consideration given to this additional
22 adjoining subunit.

23
24 We recognize that their use of Federal lands in Unit
25 13 would require that they -- the Denali National Park lands
26 are closest to them so there would be another series of hoops
27 for them to go through, but C&T determinations have been made
28 without regard to land status. So just a suggestion that
29 there might be one subunit that should be given
30 consideration.

31
32 As a final comment, in the Staff justification,
33 there's talk about there's no need to restrict black bear
34 harvest in Unit 13 so Staff is being inclusive rather than
35 exclusive, and it's our opinion that C&T determinations are
36 to be made on the basis of an eight factor analysis and not
37 on the basis of whether or not there's sufficient numbers of
38 animals to harvest. You know, I think that's a separate
39 exercise. So in short, we support the direction the Staff
40 recommendation is taking with that one additional
41 consideration of Unit 16(A).

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can I make a comment on
44 that? I think that probably 16 isn't in there because 16 has
45 never requested a C&T determination. I think that it's
46 always open for them to request it in the future, isn't it,
47 Rachel? I mean they can at any time that they feel they
48 would like a C&T determination, request an analysis and
49 request that they be included?

50

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1 MS. MASON: That's true. In response though,
2 neither did the communities of 11, 12 and 20(D) ask to be
3 included in this. However, the reason that they were not
4 considered or included was because the effort here was made
5 to follow the caribou and moose determination. So there has
6 never been any question of the people in 16(A) having a
7 positive C&T for moose or caribou in Unit 13.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There's never been a request
10 made?

11
12 MS. MASON: No.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other questions
15 for ADF&G? And I agree with you completely that it should be
16 made on -- C&T is made on use not on availability -- should
17 be made on use not availability. It shouldn't be a question
18 of whether there's sufficient black bear or not, it should be
19 a question of has it been used. Thank you.

20
21 MR. HAYNES: Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Other agency comments. Park
24 Service. None. Eastern Interior.

25
26 MR. GOOD: The Regional Council, Eastern
27 Interior opposes this proposal because it unnecessarily
28 restricts subsistence harvest of an abundant species. And
29 the Regional Council supports more inclusive rather than
30 exclusive determinations. In fact, I don't think people like
31 us saying this but we tend to look at predators, in
32 particular, bears, black and brown, grizzly, and wolves, and
33 we're particularly concerns about anything that restricts
34 their harvest because we do have a problem with caribou and
35 with moose. And we've been hit extremely hard in the
36 northern eastern Interior and we know that Unit 13 has as
37 well. We're -- we -- currently it reads all rural residents
38 can use the black bears in this area. We'd rather not see it
39 restricted.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Nat, can I ask a question?

42
43 MR. GOOD: Yes.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The fact that there's a C&T
46 determination does not restrict access to those black bears
47 unless there's a time of shortage. So if there's a C&T
48 determination and there's no shortage, there's still access
49 to those black bears, am I correct, Robert Willis?

50

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1 MR. WILLIS: That's correct. Under State
2 regulation also the opportunity to hunt exists. I can check
3 the regulations book and see what it is if you'd like.

4
5 MR. HEUSCHKEL: Three no close season.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Three no close season.

8
9 MR. WILLIS: That's what I thought but I
10 wanted to be sure about that. So there is a liberal -- very
11 liberal hunting opportunity under State regulation.

12
13 MR. GOOD: We also recognize the fact that
14 the State seasons are so liberal that they cause no problem
15 here. But I think we're looking more at the position of
16 anything that appears to restrict the taking of wolves or
17 bears, anything that puts that appearance -- we really didn't
18 feel comfortable with it.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

21
22 MR. GOOD: And if you take a different
23 position, that's certainly all right with us.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fish and Game Advisory
26 Committees.

27
28 MR. HEUSCHKEL: Because the bag limit is
29 three with a no close season we felt that there were plenty
30 of bears and we didn't want to see it limited just to those
31 areas mentioned, it should be for all the rural residents.
32 There doesn't seem to be any shortage at all. Thanks.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Frank.

35
36 MR. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chair, Council members,
37 yeah, we took the same look at this situation and we felt
38 that, you know, because of the numbers of bears and the
39 availability and the long season and all, we felt at this
40 time there really wasn't any reason to put a determination on
41 it. We would rather see the no determination as it reads
42 right now. It also applies in Unit 12 for black bears.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Written
45 testimony.

46
47 MS. EAKON: The Upper Tanana Fortymile
48 Advisory Committee opposed saying that this is unnecessarily
49 restrictive given the black bear population.

50

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1 The Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee opposed
2 saying that this proposal unnecessarily restricts the
3 majority of rural subsistence hunters. It would also
4 encourage the growth of a predator population as it restricts
5 the number of possible hunters.

6
7 The Denali National Park and Preserve Subsistence
8 Resource Commission supports Proposal 19 as modified in the
9 analysis for the reasons stated in the justification.

10
11 The Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource
12 Commission supports Proposal 19. Saying that black bear
13 within Unit 13 have been used since prehistoric times by the
14 Ahtna/Athabascans and Tanana bands living in the Copper
15 Tanana River regions and by non-Native settlers since their
16 arrival in the area around 100 years ago.

17
18 End of comments.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Public testimony.
21 The only one I have down for public testimony is CRNA.

22
23 MS. STICKWAN: I just write proposals for our
24 villages and that's why it's written like this. But we
25 amended that to include all residents of Unit 13.

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You include all rural
28 residents of Unit 13?

29
30 MS. STICKWAN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. There's no other
33 testimony. At this point we'll go to Regional Council
34 deliberation, recommendation, justifications. We need a
35 motion on the table to consider this Proposal 19.

36
37 MS. SWAN: So moved.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved by Clare.
40 Do I get a second or don't we consider it?

41
42 MR. KOMPKEFF: I'll second it.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Second by Donald. Okay,
45 it's on the table. Comments, discussions. And it's on the
46 table as written, unless somebody wants to make an amendment.

47
48 MR. F. JOHN: I just got a question. I mean
49 you know, we all talk about opening up to everybody, it just
50 -- I mean everybody's going to use black bear for subsistence

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1 or just because there's so many black -- is just because
2 there's so many of them it's wide open, it's not subsistence
3 anymore? I have kind of a hard time with what's going on.

4
5 MS. MASON: Mr. Chairman.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Rachel.

8
9 MS. MASON: Just to remind you that the
10 population of black bear doesn't have anything to do with the
11 C&T. That does keep coming up because there's such a liberal
12 season that anybody can do it. But in a C&T determination it
13 shouldn't have any effect on it.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Basically I think what
16 you're saying, Rachel, is in the C&T determination, it should
17 be prior use, customary.....

18
19 MS. MASON: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:and traditional use?

22
23 MS. MASON: Right. That's the question that
24 is considered in a C&T determination.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

27
28 MR. F. JOHN: Well, I.....

29
30 MS. SWAN: Mr. Chairman.....

31
32 MR. F. JOHN: Excuse me.

33
34 MS. SWAN: Go ahead.

35
36 MR. F. JOHN: Well, I was just asking a
37 question, you know, if we do the same thing to moose, you
38 know, it seems like we argue more on moose than we would on
39 this, so.....

40
41 MS. MASON: Yeah.

42
43 MR. F. JOHN:and for C&T for bear, you
44 know, it seems like, you know, hey, just have it.

45
46 MS. MASON: Right.

47
48 MR. F. JOHN: You know, go get it.

49
50 MS. MASON: Yeah.

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1 MR. F. JOHN: And we never did question what
2 you do with it, how come it's open to everybody, you
3 know.....

4
5 MS. MASON: Yeah.

6
7 MR. F. JOHN:and everything like that.
8 And I have kind of like, hey, it's okay, do anything you want
9 with bear.

10
11 MS. MASON: Yeah, that's the logic behind the
12 recommendations that these other Councils and committees have
13 made, is that there's no need to restrict at all so don't do
14 a C&T determination.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Clare.

17
18 MS. SWAN: Earlier you said that this -- this
19 proposal was deferred in 1998?

20
21 MS. MASON: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

22
23 MS. SWAN: It was presented as Proposal 30?

24
25 MS. MASON: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

26
27 MS. SWAN: Could you just tell me again what
28 was the reason for deferring?

29
30 MS. MASON: I can't remember why it was
31 deferred. Let's see, does anybody have -- do you remember.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: George.

34
35 MR. SHERROD: I think I can, Mr. Chair. As
36 Rachel pointed out, part of the logic and sort of the way
37 that the conclusions or recommendation's been drafted have
38 been based on the use of other resources. Part of that has
39 to do with the fact that there is just not a lot of black
40 bear harvest data and in some units, you know, there's no
41 reporting, there's no data at all.

42
43 I believe, and we will take up one of the Unit 12
44 proposals a little later, Unit 12, the Southeast or South --
45 or Eastern Interior Council went with the unit and adjoining
46 subunits as being the determination. And the attempt was to
47 make sure -- not because there's so many black bear out
48 there, but recognizing that you really run the risk of
49 excluding somebody because of reporting requirements. In the
50 Interior, particularly, Athabascans don't like to report the

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1 harvest of black bear even when they are basically required
2 to do so by law.

3

4 I believe that this Council, at least, in the Unit
5 12, followed the Eastern Interior's recommendation of units
6 and subunits and I think you might have done the same on this
7 one. What happened was the Board was nervous with the
8 approach that the Councils had taken in terms of dealing with
9 C&T, and I think in light -- they truly believe that the C&T
10 subcommittee would resolve a lot of this so they opted to
11 send these proposals back thinking that there would be a more
12 clear direction on how to handle C&T.

13

14 I'm jumping ahead a little bit. The Eastern Interior
15 has basically gone on record going back and saying we're not
16 going to make black determinations, it's a needless exercise.
17 We do run the risk of excluding somebody. And I mean we've
18 got black bear now but potentially down the road we're going
19 to have grouse, we're going to have porcupine, we could, you
20 know, basically fill our regulation books full of regulations
21 that accomplish nothing. Because as long as the State season
22 and the bag limits are the same as the Federal season and bag
23 limit, it doesn't accomplish anything. And so I guess, the
24 short answer is I think that you guys follow the Eastern
25 Interior's Chair, and the Board threw it back and it threw
26 back, not only this proposal but all the -- or the majority
27 of ones from the Eastern Interior, a number of the ones from
28 Western Interior, but earlier -- at least, the Eastern and
29 Western had gone back on record saying, we're not going to
30 make black bear determinations, we just reject the proposal.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically it was thrown
33 back because they thought the -- there wasn't sufficient
34 justification is really what it boiled down to?

35

36 MR. SHERROD: The approach that was applied.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

39

40 MR. SHERROD: I mean interestingly enough, at
41 least, in the proposal that you will here, the approach
42 matched -- their approach and the new data mesh almost
43 identically. So -- and this was also a proposal you guys
44 supported, number 50 for Unit 12. But I think it was the
45 manner in which the Council made its determination that the
46 Board was uncomfortable with. And again, the Board truly
47 believed that we'd have clearer direction on C&T this time
48 around than we did last, and as a -- we don't. The working
49 group was unable to provide any clearer information.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I see what you mean, that
2 the working group would more delineate what the factors were?

3
4 MR. SHERROD: Right. Some of these questions
5 that came up earlier, yesterday, about how many, how long,
6 that some of the stuff would be worked out and provide
7 clearer direction. But as I say the -- at least the Interior
8 Councils felt that this regulation accomplished nothing
9 because you can still hunt under State regulations. It would
10 be different if you guys, say in Unit 12, there was no limit
11 on bears.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

14
15 MR. SHERROD:then, in fact, you would
16 be providing some sort of preference or priority. But as it
17 stands now, it accomplishes nothing.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So they basically threw it
20 back and said they're not even going to act on it.

21
22 MR. SHERROD: They told the Board we're not
23 going to act on it.

24
25 MS. SWAN: Well, is it fair to say that from
26 what you just said that they decided to deal with it without
27 dealing with it by not dealing with it?

28
29 MR. SHERROD: No, I think.....

30
31 MS. SWAN: Because of all the.....

32
33 MR. SHERROD:they did deal with it.

34
35 MS. SWAN:other stuff?

36
37 MR. SHERROD: I think there's a genuine
38 concern given the scarcity of black bear information, that
39 you run the risk of basically eliminating a user. And that
40 it's -- I think in all these determinations, we have to look
41 at it as it's better than what was there but it's not going
42 to be perfect. And that's truly the case with black bear,
43 that at least in the Interior and I'm not going to speak for
44 your region, any determination they make for black bear is
45 probably going to exclude somebody and will have to be
46 modified in the future and again in the future and again in
47 the future.

48
49 And the same would be true for a lot of other animals
50 that we're dealing with now such as grouse and -- I mean we

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1 have had requests for C&T determinations on porcupine. And
2 so I think they're sending a message back to the Board, and
3 not being belligerent or anything, but saying, you know, we
4 still have to work out a way to deal with C&T, we're not
5 comfortable with what we're doing. And we're not
6 comfortable, particular with the amount of data that we have
7 available to us, that the Staff can bring to us in terms of
8 dealing with this request.

9
10 Because I think it's true that people do go to
11 different areas to hunt bear, probably specifically for bear,
12 it's not all opportunistic take, but we don't have the data
13 very often that will allow us to analyze that.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think I understand that,
16 George. I think I understand what you're saying. Basically,
17 the other two regions that adjoin us have said that, rather
18 than take a chance on excluding somebody from our region or
19 from one of the neighboring regions they would rather make no
20 determination on bear.

21
22 MR. SHERROD: The Delta -- Yukon-Kuskokwim
23 Delta also take the same stand on black bear proposal. In
24 Western Interior and a similar position was taken by the
25 Norton -- not Norton -- Seward Peninsula, no, no, excuse me,
26 Western Arctic in dealing with the black bear proposal. So
27 Eastern Interior's not out there all by themselves in this.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you, for that.

30
31 MR. SHERROD: Is that correct, Nat, I'd like
32 to.....

33
34 MR. GOOD: Absolutely correct.

35
36 MR. SHERROD: Okay.

37
38 MR. GOOD: We prefer to keep all rural
39 residents on there which may sound strange but it's the way
40 we preferred it.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We have a motion on
43 the floor. And as the motion stands, it's as written. I
44 know I can't vote for the motion as written, it would have to
45 at least be modified to include the rural residents of Unit
46 13 for sure. And I had never given any thought to the fact
47 that other people that had C&T for moose or caribou in the
48 same area probably also would take black bear.

49
50 It's kind of interesting that the other regions just

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1 basically made no determination on it. Told the Board they
2 weren't going to make any determination on it. That's also a
3 choice for us, we could just vote this down and not -- and
4 then there is no determination; am I correct in that?

5
6 MS. MASON: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So at this point in time,
9 does somebody want to amend this to include specific areas or
10 specific groups? Do we want to vote on it the way the motion
11 stands? What is the preference of this Council? Discussion.

12
13 MS. SWAN: The existing regulation is as now,
14 there is no determination in Unit 13 and it's for all rural
15 residents; is that.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's exactly.....

18
19 MS. SWAN:that's what's happening?

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:that's the existing
22 regulation.

23
24 MS. SWAN: Okay.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So that would be rural
27 residents of 11 and rural residents of 12, but it would also
28 be rural residents of the Kenai Peninsula.

29
30 MS. MASON: Yeah, of anywhere in Alaska.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Or Seward Peninsula or
33 anywhere.

34
35 MS. SWAN: Umm.

36
37 MR. DEMENTI: So as it stands now, all rural
38 residents can hunt now?

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: As it stands right now.

41
42 MR. DEMENTI: In Unit.....

43
44 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: In Unit 13.

47
48 MR. F. JOHN: I'd rather not touch it.

49
50 MR. DEMENTI: I'm with Fred.

00367

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, we have a motion on
2 the table we need to vote on. We can vote it down.

3
4 MR. F. JOHN: Let's vote it down.

5
6 MR. DEMENTI: Yes.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Or we can.....

9
10 MR. F. JOHN: Question.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:amend it. You're
13 calling the question. All in favor of Proposal 19 as written
14 signify by saying aye.

15
16 (No positive responses)

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
19 saying nay.

20
21 IN UNISON: Nay.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Nay. Motion fails. Should
24 we do the next one before break or shall we take a break
25 right now?

26
27 MS. SWAN: Take a break.

28
29 (Off record - 9:55 a.m.)

30 (On record - 10:16 a.m.)

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We'll call this meeting of
33 the Southcentral Regional Subsistence Advisory Council back
34 in session. At this point in time we have Proposal 22 which
35 has been withdrawn but a request has been made to read
36 something into the records on it. Would the proponent come
37 up and read it into the record.

38
39 MS. DeWITT: I'm Cathy DeWitt from -- can you
40 hear me?

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

43
44 MS. DeWITT: I'm Cathy DeWitt born and raised
45 in Tazlina. And this is Federal Subsistence Board here for
46 Mitchell Demientieff. After the meeting with SRAC and ERAC,
47 Copper River Native Association is withdrawing Proposal 22,
48 pending further deliberations on this proposal.

49
50 A partial intent of the proposal was to address the

00368

1 impact of the hunters within the Unit 13 during the caribou
2 and moose hunting season. The qualified subsistence users do
3 not have their subsistence needs met under the Federal or
4 State regime due to the migration of the Nelchina Herd and
5 the influx of hunters in Unit 13 during the moose and caribou
6 hunting season.

7
8 Additionally, CRNA has a concern that in times of
9 shortage when a Section .804 takes place in Unit 13 of the
10 Nelchina Caribou Herd, that Ahtna villages may have to
11 compete with hunters from other communities on a small parcel
12 of Federal public land. The Federal management regime
13 provides the highest priority under Federal public lands for
14 the qualified subsistence users than the State regime on
15 State lands.

16
17 The qualified subsistence users of the Ahtna region
18 hunt mainly along the Denali and Richardson Highway system
19 since these area are accessible by vehicle. The qualified
20 subsistence users are concerned about these hunting areas
21 that they have historically used to hunt in. Also customary
22 and traditional use should be based on historical evidence of
23 use. It should not be based on adjacent units as a whole.
24 The customary and traditional use determination should be
25 based on long-term customary and traditional use of the
26 lands.

27
28 CRNA welcomes any help as to how to address these
29 issues. Do you have any questions?

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Do we have any
32 questions? Thank you. Okay, at this point in time we go on
33 to Proposal 26. Do you lead in on that?

34
35 MR. WILLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Proposal
36 26 was submitted by the Copper River Native Association. It
37 would lengthen the moose season in Unit 13(E) and Unit 13
38 remainder from August 1 to September 20 which is the current
39 season, to August 1 to September 25, thereby lengthening the
40 season by five days.

41
42 Currently the August 1 to September 20 season has a
43 harvest limit of one antlered bull by Federal registration
44 permit only. And in Unit 13(E) which is that portion of the
45 unit which contains Denali National Park, those are the only
46 Federal lands in 13(E). There's a limit of one permit per
47 household. On non-Federal lands, the State has a Tier II
48 subsistence hunt which in the past has extended from august 1
49 to August 19th with a harvest limit of one bull. The general
50 State season in that unit runs from August 20 to September 20

00369

1 and is a spike-fork 50-inch three brow-tine regulation.

2

3 The people who have customary and traditional use in
4 Unit 13 varies somewhat. Rural residents of Unit 13 and the
5 residents of Chickaloon and Dot Lake have C&T in Unit 13, in
6 13(E), it's the residents of McKinley Village and the area
7 along the Parks Highway between Mile Post 216 and 239, except
8 for the residents of the Denali Park Headquarters.

9

10 ADF&G has furnished the survey and inventory reports
11 and the harvest data for this area. We find that after the
12 moose season's decline -- moose populations declined back in
13 the early '90s as they did in Unit 11 because of the severe
14 winters, moose season was shortened and 1993 the spoke-fork
15 50-inch three brow-tine regulation was instituted. Since
16 that time, harvest has averaged 900 to 1,000 bulls per year
17 -- or for the last five years. And the hunting pressure has
18 expanded to where they estimate they're currently about 6,000
19 hunters or more in the field each year.

20

21 Under the harvest strategy, the spike-fork 50
22 strategy, the overall bull/cow ratio in Unit 13 is stabilized
23 at approximately 18 bulls per 100 cows. But that's such a
24 huge unit that it varies significantly from one part of Unit
25 13 to the other. The highest is about 20 in Subunit 13(B)
26 but it's only 12 to 100 in 13(E). Populations, overall, are
27 stable but they are declining significantly in some areas.
28 And as with Unit 11 we find adequate calf production but
29 survival to the fall is extremely low. In fact, the 1998
30 calf/cow ratio was only 14 to 100, which is the lowest that's
31 been recorded in 20 years. And again, the low calf survival
32 is due to heavy predation.

33

34 We have an extremely high harvest in Unit 13. As
35 Fred pointed out earlier, there's tremendous hunting pressure
36 in that unit and Federal lands are a small portion of the
37 unit. They're in kind of a longated shapes and small blocks
38 and so they're surrounded by lands under State jurisdiction.
39 And the heavy hunting pressure effects those lands whether it
40 occurs on them or not.

41

42 Most of the harvest or a significant percentage of
43 the harvest occurs during that last week of the season,
44 September 16 to 20. And I should mention, although, it's not
45 in your book, the State Board of Game has been taking some
46 steps to restrict the general hunting season in Unit 13 at
47 their meeting that ended last week. They shortened the State
48 general season by 10 days. Beginning this year it will be
49 September 1 to September 20 instead of August 20 to September
50 20. That is to be in place for two years and then they'll

00370

1 reevaluate it to see if that has been sufficient to reduce
2 the bull harvest which is a big concern up there. If it is
3 not sufficient to reduce the bull harvest, then they plan to
4 go further and institute one of two options, either a spike-
5 fork 50-inch four brow-tine antler restriction or a spike 50-
6 inch, three brow-tine restrictions, one of those two options
7 to be considered if shortening the season doesn't do the job
8 in reducing the bull harvest. Also last week they changed
9 the Tier II subsistence hunt dates from August 1 to August 19
10 to August 15 to August 31, thereby moving it two weeks later
11 so that it ends at the time that the general season begins on
12 September the 1st.

13
14 As we discussed with Unit 11, when we talk about
15 adding days to the end of the hunting season which ends on
16 September 20th, we get into the problem of interfering with
17 the rut. We discussed that at some length so I won't go
18 through it again. But the same situation exists with reduced
19 -- or second estrus breeding, numbers of late born calves and
20 lower calf survival going through the following winter.

21
22 For those reasons and the fact that the population is
23 on a decline even though most of that is occurring on non-
24 Federal lands, we have to oppose this proposal. With a
25 harvest at a maximum and probably beyond the maximum that it
26 should be right now, harvesting bulls during that harem
27 formation period in the early part of the rut resulting in
28 lower calf production and reduced survival, again, we think
29 the risk is too great to increase the season by five days at
30 the end.

31
32 That concludes the Staff analysis.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions for Robert?
35 Robert, I got a couple.

36
37 MR. WILLIS: Okay.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, interfering with the
40 rut is probably even a bigger impact if you have a low
41 bull/cow ratio, isn't it?

42
43 MR. WILLIS: That's correct.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because there's not so many
46 opportunistic bulls around to take advantage of it. So with
47 the bull ratio of 12 to 100, that's considered extremely low?

48
49 MR. WILLIS: That's -- yes, it is extremely
50 low. Twenty is considered sort of the minimum acceptable

00371

1 range and 25 is better.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, is that because out of
4 20 or 25 bulls, you're figuring that some of them are not of
5 breeding age and some of them are beyond breeding age or
6 what?

7

8 MR. WILLIS: That's correct. A significant
9 number of them, the largest proportion of those will be
10 yearlings and two year olds.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: In Unit 13 we have very
13 little Federal land, just that little dab of Federal land up
14 above?

15

16 MR. WILLIS: That's correct. It's
17 approximately 10 percent of the unit but that includes Denali
18 National Park over in the far northwestern corner of 13(E)
19 which really is a little different situation with the limited
20 -- you know, there's a limited number of people who hunt
21 moose in that area. The great preponderance of the area is
22 Unit 13 remainder, and of course, the Federal lands there are
23 just those strips of land along the Pipeline Corridor or the
24 Wild and Scenic Rivers and a few scattered blocks of BLM
25 lands, and a small portion of the Chugach National Forest
26 down in the corner.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You said 900 to 1,000 bulls
29 were taken by about 6,000 hunters, is that including the
30 subsistence take or is that strictly under.....

31

32 MR. WILLIS: We provide the subsistence
33 harvest to ADF&G just as they provide data to us so I'm
34 assuming that they've included the subsistence harvest within
35 that.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So that's a number that
38 includes all the taken then, probably?

39

40 MR. WILLIS: Yes. To the best of my
41 knowledge it is.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And the same way with the
44 hunters in the field, that includes all hunters?

45

46 MR. WILLIS: I'm sure that's based on harvest
47 ticket reports. And, of course, harvest tickets are required
48 for all Federal hunts -- or Federal registration permits so
49 we do have a paper trail for all the hunters out there.

50

00372

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, has that area got a lot
2 of Native land?

3
4 MR. WILLIS: I suspect, Fred could answer
5 that better than I can. We look at all of -- it's either
6 Federal jurisdiction or State jurisdiction, and of course,
7 the State jurisdiction is all privately owned and State owned
8 lands.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

11
12 MR. WILLIS: So I really haven't broken that
13 down by Native owned or other owned or State.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I was just wondering if
16 maybe Fred could tell me, how much success you've had on
17 preventing trespassing on Native lands so that you can use
18 that land for hunting yourselves. Have you had much success
19 on that at all?

20
21 MR. F. JOHN: We don't get any State backing
22 on trespassing land. They cross Native land and.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And hunt on it and
25 everything?

26
27 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So private property isn't
30 very well.....

31
32 MR. F. JOHN: Protected.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:respected up in that
35 area. If private property was respected, would that solve
36 some of the hunting problems? Would that open up enough
37 land, you know.....

38
39 MR. F. JOHN: I don't know.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:I mean, you know,
42 that's something the State's going to have to address sooner
43 or later. I mean that may alleviate some of the hunting
44 problems if private property was respected. You don't have
45 any comment on that one?

46
47 MR. F. JOHN: No, I really don't. I just
48 know that it's pretty well impacted. We try and address it
49 in our own meetings and everything but we really -- and then
50 we -- what we do is we address it to the State and there's,

00373

1 you know, nothing is done. They won't do nothing. So we
2 don't really know what to do on private land.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. ADF&G.

5

6 MR. McDONALD: Mr. Chair, Mike McDonald. We
7 oppose this proposal as well. We are concerned with the
8 bull/cow ratios there. It's been dropping pretty
9 consistently for the last 10 or 15 years.

10

11 In addition, Robert mentioned the low calf survival
12 and we've just completed surveys, wolf surveys out there and
13 have the highest number of wolves that we've ever recorded.
14 The Board of Game did liberalize the wolf hunting season in
15 Unit 13 to be 10 wolves a day. And liberalized the brown
16 bear season to go until June 15th. But until they can more
17 drastically address the predation it's going to be some time
18 before we see a recovery or particularly an increase in the
19 survival of calves.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions? Fred.

22

23 MR. F. JOHN: How long is the State season
24 now -- how long is the season now?

25

26 MR. McDONALD: For moose?

27

28 MR. F. JOHN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

29

30 MR. McDONALD: Well, right now it was August
31 20th until September 20th. This next season it will be
32 September 1 through September 20th.

33

34 MR. F. JOHN: Oh, they're going to shorten
35 it?

36

37 MR. McDONALD: Yes.

38

39 MR. F. JOHN: Oh, that's good.

40

41 MR. DEMENTI: I think it's not only predation
42 that's taking, I think there's more population -- there's
43 more impact of people in Unit 13 taking moose that got the
44 moose decline.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But that pretty much impacts
47 mostly bulls. The calf survival would not be impacted by
48 human. The calf survival would have to be pretty much all
49 predation, wouldn't it, Mike?

50

00374

1 MR. McDONALD: That's correct. And we are
2 seeing a decline in the cow base, which is pretty much
3 unhunted.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And so they're not only
6 getting calves, they're getting cows also?

7
8 MR. McDONALD: Because the cow/calves are not
9 surviving.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

12
13 MR. McDONALD:we're not replenishing
14 those cows that die naturally.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Lack of recruitment?

17
18 MR. McDONALD: Correct.

19
20 MR. DEMENTI: It might be happening like they
21 do the caribou, they just slaughter them out there. I
22 mentioned before, me and my nephew went out there and we
23 counted 14 caribou, nothing taken out of it, just had bullet
24 holes in them, nobody taking them out. We reported it but it
25 didn't.....

26
27 MR. McDONALD: One of the problems that we
28 have or see out there is that wolves in Unit 13 prefer moose.
29 But when the number of caribou are high they certainly do go
30 and take caribou but then during the winter, in particular,
31 the caribou have been leaving, the wolves stay there. So the
32 moose population is more severely impacted because the number
33 of wolves is higher.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You say this was the highest
36 count of wolves you've ever had or in recent history?

37
38 MR. McDONALD: That I can ever recall.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

41
42 MR. McDONALD: And I think we're probably
43 going back 70 years before you might even see or think of it
44 being higher.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Wow.

47
48 MR. F. JOHN: So what you're saying is it's
49 all wolf, it's not the high impact of hunters in the Unit 13
50 area?

00375

1 MR. McDONALD: On the overall population,
2 it's primarily predation. Certainly hunters have some
3 impact, there's -- I mean -- but that impact is at the bull
4 segment.

5
6 MR. F. JOHN: How many bulls they get out of
7 there in a season, I mean during last time, do you know?

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Nine-hundred to a thousand.

10
11 MR. F. JOHN: Nine-hundred to a thousand.

12
13 MR. McDONALD: Nine-hundred to a thousand. I
14 think this year it was 880.

15
16 MR. DEMENTI: That's just what's been
17 counted?

18
19 MR. McDONALD: Oh, I'm sorry, wolves?

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No.

22
23 MR. DEMENTI: No.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, he.....

26
27 MR. McDONALD: Moose?

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:meant that that's the
30 amount of moose that were reported?

31
32 MR. McDONALD: Right.

33
34 MR. F. JOHN: Reported yeah.

35
36 MR. McDONALD: Reported.

37
38 MR. DEMENTI: Right.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, do you have a fudge
41 factor in that, too, in that 880 or -- by fudge factor, I
42 mean, have you got an estimate -- in there, included an
43 estimate of moose that were taken that weren't counted or is
44 that actual reported moose?

45
46 MR. McDONALD: That's actual reported and
47 that's the combined State and Federal hunt.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And that's the actual
50 reported ones?

00376

1 MR. McDONALD: that's correct.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the total take probably
4 is somewhere between 900 and a thousand?

5

6 MR. McDONALD: I think that's probably true.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Okay, any other
9 questions for Mike? No. Other agency comments. Is there
10 any comments from Park Service? Eastern Interior. Oop, I'll
11 get you next, Hollis.

12

13 MR. GOOD: The Regional Council referred to
14 its neighboring region because it's the home region for the
15 proposal. The deferral was reached after a reconsideration
16 of their earlier action to oppose the proposal. The
17 reconsideration was based on the proposal's concern that
18 local subsistence users were not being able to get their
19 moose as well as the conservation concerns that the
20 additional harvest would be detrimental to the moose
21 population.

22

23 Now, I would also add we are also aware of the fact
24 that the Board of Game was going to meet after our meeting.
25 We were uncertain what the results would be. We knew that a
26 number of advisory committees such as Delta Fish and Game had
27 submitted proposals to shorten the sport hunting season. We
28 felt that one of the large takes of moose was simply the
29 incidental taking of moose by caribou hunters in Unit 13. We
30 recognized that this year, while the subsistence hunting
31 season will remain the same, the sport hunting season will be
32 shortened and that incidental take will be removed so there
33 should be a reduction in the number of moose taken. You
34 can't reduce the number of that moose population, it's on a
35 very bad decline right now. But we left it to you because
36 you would have the additional information of the shortened
37 sport hunting season if that really was the case and knowing
38 that there would be a shortened -- a lesser effect if the
39 sport hunters out of Fairbanks and Anchorage.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hollis.

42

43 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell, Denali
44 National Park, Mr. Chair and Council members. I just wanted
45 to mention an action that the SRC took, I guess it was a year
46 or two years ago, I don't recall just when it was, but it was
47 when they were looking at the regulation that talked about
48 one moose per household and whether to remove that from Unit
49 13(E). And the Commission was concerned about the moose
50 population and the number of hunters that they have in the

00377

1 Cantwell area and with those concerns, recommended retaining
2 that one moose per household. Because they were concerned
3 about increased harvest levels of moose in that area even by
4 their own users.

5
6 So I think they would probably take a conservative
7 approach here. This proposal wasn't presented to them. It
8 was an oversight on my part at their last meeting in
9 February. So we don't have any current official position
10 regarding the Commission. Certainly Gilbert can speak for
11 the Commission in how he thinks that they would respond in
12 that way.

13
14 Snow conditions were such where we didn't accomplish
15 any moose trend area counts in the Broad Pass area this year
16 so we have no current and biological information that we
17 could lend to you at this time. Again, there is a concern
18 that we issue 40 to 45 moose registration permits for the
19 Cantwell community and that is one moose per household.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any questions
22 for Hollis? Nope, okay. Fish and Game Advisory Committee
23 comments.

24
25 MR. HEUSCHKEL: Valdez Advisory. We gave up
26 10 days this time so we were the ones giving up time not just
27 the subsistence hunters. Because now we have a September 1st
28 to September 20th, which only gives us 20 days or everybody
29 in the State whereas the Federal people have 50 days. So we
30 really don't see an extension of five days helping that much.

31
32 Personally, what I've seen happen since the Federal
33 season has started, real familiar with the Tiekel area. And
34 between the 50-inch and the spike-fork horn getting hunted
35 and then the subsistence hunters coming by and shooting any
36 bull there's not hardly any bulls left to survive. And at
37 one time the Federal season did extend longer than the State
38 season and what happens is everybody from Unit 13 pours into
39 the corridors that are Federal lands and it looks like a
40 parade going up and down for the next five days and any bull
41 is shot. So there is no survival rate for the bulls to
42 breed. In the last five days, also you can call -- any bull
43 in rut you can call it right to the road basically. So there
44 would be no bulls left to breed.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any questions?
47 Okay. Frank.

48
49 MR. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chair, Council members,
50 yeah, Frank Entsminger for Upper Tanana. I don't believe we

00378

1 took a yea or nay vote on this particular proposal because we
2 realized that, you know, there are problems in Unit 13 on the
3 moose. And also there was some kind of a team set up to look
4 at the ATV access and that type of thing and we basically
5 pretty much felt that we'd see how -- between that and the
6 State Board of Game and what they decided, how things shook
7 out on it.

8
9 So I don't believe we took a stand, and if we did it
10 probably would have been the more conservative approach.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. At this point in
13 time, any written comments, Helga?

14
15 MS. EAKON: The Delta Advisory Committee
16 opposed Proposal 26 saying that we believe the moose
17 population in Unit 13 is too low to support an increased
18 season length. We have supported State proposals to shorten
19 the State seasons so we cannot support this proposal.

20
21 End of comments.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And is that the only written
24 comment?

25
26 MS. EAKON: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Public testimony.
29 CRNA.

30
31 MR. VILATOL: Johnny Vilatol from Tazlina
32 Village and I represent the Copper River Native Association.
33 I'm here to talk about Proposal 26 to extend moose season for
34 Unit 13, the proposed season date to August 1 to September
35 25.

36
37 Unit 13 on Federal land is where Ahtna people hunt.
38 We need to have a longer moose season in Unit 13 so that we
39 can hunt for moose on Federal land. The Federal lands
40 provide the best hunting opportunity to get moose for my
41 family. State Tier II does not provide me an opportunity to
42 harvest moose. The Tier II is open to all subsistence user.
43 We have Tier II hunters from the urban area competing with us
44 to hunt. The impact of hunters within the Unit 13 on State
45 land makes it hard for me to hunt -- hard to get moose during
46 hunting season because people hunting within Unit 13.

47
48 A longer moose season is given to other units and a
49 longer season should be allowed to Unit 13, too.

50

00379

1 The last time I harvested a moose was a year ago.
2 Adding five days just for local qualified subsistence user
3 will not adversely effect the moose population. There aren't
4 that many qualified subsistence users who will hunt in Unit
5 13. The longer dates reflects the Ahtna traditional moose
6 hunting season than just 25 days.

7
8 We Ahtna people have traditionally hunted moose from
9 August month until the rutting season during the last part of
10 September. We also hunt moose during the winter months. If
11 I, myself, do not hunt within Unit 13, a proxy may hunt for
12 me within Unit 13. I need the meat from my family to -- I
13 need to have my subsistence needs to have a longer hunt in
14 Unit 13. The Federal land in Unit 13 is approximately 10
15 percent, a small portion of land to hunt on will not
16 adversely effect the moose population.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions? Thank you.

21
22 MR. VILATOL: We like to take the smaller
23 moose instead -- it's a better chance of preserving the meat.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. I don't think
26 anybody has any questions, so thank you.

27
28 Robert, I got a couple of questions that he brought
29 up there that I'd like to ask you and maybe you can answer.

30
31 MR. WILLIS: Okay.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How many qualified users
34 would there be or have an approximate number of qualified
35 users that there would be?

36
37 MR. WILLIS: I don't have that, Mr. Chair,
38 I'm sorry. Rachel may have an idea. We've had a number of
39 C&T proposals in that unit, maybe we have it somewhere in the
40 data here and I'm not aware of it.

41
42 MS. MASON: Throughout Unit 13?

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thirteen?

45
46 MS. MASON: I don't know that we have ever
47 gotten that.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would it be all people who
50 have a C&T for that unit?

00380

1 MS. MASON: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So that'd be Unit 11, all
4 rural residents, Unit 13, 20(D)?

5

6 MS. MASON: Yeah.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

9

10 MS. MASON: We could figure that out pretty
11 quick.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

14

15 MS. MASON: Yeah, for moose it would be rural
16 residents of Unit 13 for 13(A), (B), (D) and (E). And the
17 for 13(C), rural residents of Units 12, 13, Chickaloon and
18 Dot Lake. And for 13(E), residents of Mckinley Village and
19 certain residents of the Parks Highway.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

22

23 MS. MASON:also have C&T there.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So not a large number
26 but.....

27

28 MS. MASON: No.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And another question, I
31 missed how long the Tier II season is?

32

33 MR. WILLIS: The Tier II season?

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

36

37 MR. WILLIS: Well, in the past it's been the
38 first 19 days of August and as I said, the Board of Game
39 voted last week to move that to the latter part of August, so
40 it would be the 15th through the 31st, and the Federal
41 subsistence season will continue to open on August 1st and
42 extend through September the 20th.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we actually have three
45 seasons there right now? We have the subsistence season from
46 August 1st to September 20th, and that's only on Federal
47 land?

48

49 MR. WILLIS: That's on Federal lands only and
50 it's any bull.

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1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that's any bull, okay.
2 And we have the Tier II season which is August 15th through
3 31st, and that's on State and private lands and is that any
4 bull or is that.....

5
6 MR. WILLIS: Yes, that's any bull also.
7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's any bull. And then
9 we have the regular hunting season which is September 1st
10 through September 20th, which is spike-fork 50?

11
12 MR. WILLIS: Spike-fork 50, three brow-tines,
13 yes.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Three brow-tines, okay.
16

17 MS. STICKWAN: Mr. Chairman.
18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But the current subsistence
20 season goes through all of them?

21
22 MR. F. JOHN: Gloria.
23

24 MR. WILLIS: Yes.
25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: CRNA.
27

28 MS. STICKWAN: If you look in the back of
29 your book you'll see that BLM submitted a report. They said
30 the take was 48 for -- that they.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Forty-eight for.....
33

34 MS. STICKWAN:the harvest was 48 bulls.
35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:subsistence?
37

38 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.
39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Forty-eight bulls under the
41 subsistence season?

42
43 MS. STICKWAN: Uh-huh, it's in the back of
44 your book.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you.
47

48 MR. WILLIS: Mr. Chair, I might also add, I'm
49 not sure if Rachel covered this or not, but for Units 13(C)
50 and (D), the residents of Units 11 and 12 also have C&T for

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1 that area as well as the residents of Unit 13.

2

3 MS. MASON: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

4

5 MR. WILLIS: I didn't hear if you covered
6 that or not.

7

8 MS. MASON: Yeah.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We've had public
11 testimony. We need a motion on the floor to accept this so
12 we can have discussion on it.

13

14 MR. F. JOHN: You want a.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We're on Proposal 26.

17

18 MR. F. JOHN: You want a.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We need a motion on the
21 floor to discuss it.

22

23 MR. F. JOHN: Well, I make a motion we
24 accept.....

25

26 MS. SWAN: Second.

27

28 MR. F. JOHN:Proposal 26.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and seconded
31 to accept Proposal 26. Discussion. Deliberation.

32

33 MR. DEMENTI: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gilbert.

36

37 MR. DEMENTI: I'm from Unit 13(E). And the
38 people I talked to there said just leave 13(E) as is, the
39 existing regulation.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, is most of the Federal
42 land in 13(E) or is.....

43

44 MR. DEMENTI: Just the Park.

45

46 MS. SWAN: The Park.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's just the Park part?

49

50 MR. DEMENTI: Yeah.

00383

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And they requested you leave
2 it as it stands?

3
4 MR. DEMENTI: One bull per household.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. Don, any comments?

7
8 MR. KOMPKOFF: I was back there, I didn't get
9 -- what are we.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What we're dealing with
12 right now is we have the area that has three seasons.....

13
14 MR. KOMPKOFF: Right.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:it has a subsistence
17 season for August 20 to September 20th. No, August 1st to
18 September 20th.

19
20 MR. KOMPKOFF: Federal.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's a Federal
23 subsistence.

24
25 MR. KOMPKOFF: Okay.

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We have a Tier II season
28 from August 15th to August 31st and a hunting season from
29 September 1st to September 20th, and the request is to extend
30 the season from August -- subsistence season from August 1st
31 to September 25th, to lengthen it five days. Am I correct in
32 what I said there, that's the way I understood the proposal?

33
34 MS. MASON: (Nods affirmatively)

35
36 MR. F. JOHN: If.....

37
38 MS. SWAN: Mr. Chairman.....

39
40 MR. F. JOHN:if we vote against this,
41 what's CRNA -- got -- right, from August 1st to September
42 25th, the other season will just stand?

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The other season will stand.

45
46 MS. SWAN: Mr. Chairman, the season requested
47 from August 1st to the 25th, that's on Federal lands and is
48 that any bull?

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's on Federal lands and

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1 that's any bull.

2

3 MS. SWAN: Okay.

4

5 MR. DEMENTI: Can I make another statement?

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Gilbert.

8

9 MR. DEMENTI: Yesterday I heard -- I think it
10 was Ida Hildebrand.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

13

14 MR. DEMENTI:mention that the
15 subsistence user takes only three percent of the big
16 game.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

19

20 MR. DEMENTI:out of all the hunts and
21 one percent fish.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I got from what Gloria said
24 before, 48 moose under the Federal subsistence season last
25 year is about six percent is what it is. But I was just --
26 in my mind I was trying to figure out what would be the
27 increase in that 48 if there was -- would we think it would
28 double, would it go up 25 percent? The thing is that we've
29 basically said there's enough shortage that they've shortened
30 the sport season considerably, which wasn't in there when the
31 proposal was in. So we have a 50 day subsistence season and
32 a 20 day sport season right now. So that's 30 days that --
33 if I understand right, that's 30 days that subsistence
34 hunters can be on Federal land when nobody else can be on
35 there?

36

37 MR. WILLIS: That's correct. I'd also point
38 out that that 48 bull figure, that's only the BLM lands. To
39 that, I guess you would add the Denali Park harvest. Maybe
40 that's the total, I'd have to check and see. And also I'm
41 assuming that the 880 bulls that Mike mentioned, included the
42 Tier II harvest?

43

44 MR. McDONALD: Correct.

45

46 MR. WILLIS: So that would -- some of that
47 880 bulls also would be a subsistence harvest.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any comments. Clare.

50

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1 MR. F. JOHN: I would -- we're at.....

2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's up to us.

4
5 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah. I mean I would -- I mean
6 if the other one, just stand as it is, I'd vote against this.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

9
10 MR. F. JOHN: Because I think, you know.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have to vote against it,
13 too, Fred. I would love to have that extended five days
14 because I know that.....

15
16 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah, but I think -- I think
17 after the State shortened the season, I think we're getting
18 what we want anyway.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, you basically have 30
21 days with nobody else in the field.

22
23 MR. F. JOHN: Gloria, do you still want
24 extension?

25
26 MR. DEMENTI: On which side did the State
27 shorten it, the first -- the first part?

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

30
31 MR. DEMENTI: Okay.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

34
35 MR. DEMENTI: So subsistence hunters will
36 have.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The month of August.

39
40 MR. DEMENTI:the month of August?

41
42 MR. WILLIS: Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Robert.

45
46 MR. WILLIS: They would have the month of
47 August on Federal lands and the 15th through the 31st of
48 August on all lands under the State Tier II hunt.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

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1 MS. SWAN: So that's a lot of bull.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, if there's no further
4 discussion, a question's in order.

5

6 MR. DEMENTI: Question.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gilbert.

9

10 MR. DEMENTI: Question.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been called. All
13 in favor of supporting Proposal 26 signify by saying aye.

14

15 (No positive responses)

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed to Proposal 26
18 signify by saying nay.

19

20 IN UNISON: Nay.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion fails. Not because
23 it's not considered a legitimate request but because it has
24 been addressed in some other areas right now.

25

26 Proposal 9.

27

28 MS. EAKON: Remember, we were going to take
29 25 first, but then Bill was going to give the.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, we're going to take 25
32 first, okay.

33

34 MS. EAKON: Bill's giving the legal opinion
35 first.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

38

39 MR. KNAUER: I couldn't hear.

40

41 MS. MASON: She said you're going to give the
42 legal opinion.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, we're going to take 25
45 first so you can give us the legal opinion on this one here.
46 Will this also have bearing on the other ones?

47

48 MR. KNAUER: Yes. The opinion that Helga
49 passed out to you earlier has bearing on Proposals 25, 9, and
50 11.

00387

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

2

3 MR. KNAUER: This three page document
4 essentially boils down to one thing and what it does, the
5 solicitor has said that it is appropriate to have individual
6 C&Ts for National Park Service lands.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That it is appropriate.

9

10 MR. KNAUER: It is appropriate. They state
11 that the C&T process and the Section 1344 processes are
12 separate. They do not negate the potential for the Board
13 recognizing 1344 process as a substitute for the C&T process.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So basically, Bill,
16 if I understand right, we need to go through these and
17 deliberate them because these are proper requests?

18

19 MR. KNAUER: These are valid proposals, yes,
20 sir.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Then is there any
23 reason we shouldn't take them in the order that they're
24 written, which is 9, 11 and 25?

25

26 MS. EAKON: Ask Hollis because the request
27 came from Hollis.

28

29 MR. TWITCHELL: Since Proposal 25 was a
30 deferred proposal from last year, it came before you as
31 Proposal 38 then, it has the benefit of full analysis of the
32 individual and his request.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

35

36 MR. TWITCHELL: Whereas, the other proposals,
37 I don't believe the analysis have been completed for the
38 individuals yet. So the actions that the Councils took last
39 year, I think, sheds light on how these subsequent proposals
40 could be dealt with in the future. So there's some logic in
41 proceeding with this one first.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, we will reverse it
44 then and start with 25.

45

46 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
47 Chair, Council members, Hollis Twitchell, I'm with Denali.
48 As I just mentioned, Proposal 25 replaces Proposal 38 which
49 was presented to you last year. These proposals involve an
50 individual Dan O'Connor, who requests an individual customary

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1 and traditional use determination for the use of moose on
2 Denali National Park lands within Unit 20(C) and Unit 13(E).
3

4 Dan O'Connor holds a subsistence use permit from
5 Denali National Park but he is not able to harvest moose on
6 National Park lands because he lives in a community that
7 doesn't have a positive customary and traditional
8 determination for moose.
9

10 As mentioned, the Federal Subsistence Board normally
11 makes customary and traditional use determinations based on
12 fish and wildlife populations and the past use of a community
13 or area of that species. But for National Park Service
14 lands, the Federal Subsistence Board may make customary and
15 traditional use determinations for use of a wildlife
16 population on an individual basis. That provision within the
17 Federal subsistence management regulations was provided to
18 accommodate local rural subsistence users who are eligible to
19 use National Parks or Monument lands but happen to reside in
20 a rural community or area that doesn't have a customary and
21 traditional use determination.
22

23 As mentioned, Proposal 38 was presented last year and
24 the Eastern Interior, Western Interior and the Southcentral
25 Regional Advisory Councils reviewed it. The three Councils
26 at that time supported Proposal 38 with a modification that
27 individuals with National Park Service subsistence user
28 permits be granted a positive customary and traditional use
29 determination for use of Park lands, and that the individuals
30 names not be listed in the Federal regulations. The intent
31 of the recommendation was to recognize the subsistence permit
32 holders as a group and not have individual names listed in
33 the regulations. Also to reduce the burden of individuals
34 who have already presented information and have had a
35 determination that they were traditional subsistence users
36 for the National Park lands. Not having then to go through a
37 second affirmation through the Federal process on individual
38 C&T review.
39

40 It was also recognized that by doing -- adopting this
41 modification that it would reduce the administrative workload
42 of the Councils and the Board of having to deal with future
43 individual requests for Park Service land users.
44

45 In the interest of time I won't go through the full
46 analysis that we did last year unless there's some request by
47 the Council for me to do so. I'll move at this point to the
48 preliminary conclusions. And that is, to adopt Proposal 25
49 as modified by the Eastern, Western and Southcentral Regional
50 Advisory Councils in 1998.

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1 The Councils recommended that the Federal Subsistence
2 Board adopt a policy that individuals who have demonstrated
3 their customary and traditional use of Park resources and
4 have received a subsistence use permit from the National Park
5 Service be granted a positive individual C&T use
6 determination. The determination would be applicable on
7 National Park and Monument lands, administered by the
8 National Park Service only. And that the individual
9 subsistence permittees names would not be listed in the
10 Federal regulations.

11
12 The justification for that is that the Regional
13 Advisory Councils' recommendations would allow a process for
14 individuals who have already demonstrated their traditional
15 use of Park resources and received subsistence use permits
16 for those Park lands. And they would be able to continue
17 their traditional use without having the burden of going
18 through a duplicating process before being allowed to
19 continue their traditional use. The Councils recommended
20 this group authorization process as a way of having -- of
21 eliminating having individual's names being listed in the
22 Federal regulation C&T determinations.

23
24 Adoption of this proposal would also reduce the
25 administrative workload of the Regional Advisory Councils and
26 the Federal Subsistence Board in dealing with future
27 individual C&T requests for Park lands.

28
29 And that concludes what I had to present.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Hollis. Does
32 anybody have any questions for Hollis?

33
34 MS. SWAN: I don't know if this question is
35 for Hollis or not, maybe it's for Bill. It's just a matter
36 of what happens in these things if -- it says, specifically,
37 Unit 20(C) and then it says, and Dan O'Connor. Now, is this
38 extended to his family so that if he dies and goes to the
39 happy hunting ground, do we have to go through this whole
40 thing again, do they have to requalify? You know, in other
41 words, is his family considered the individual?

42
43 MR. TWITCHELL: It -- when a subsistence use
44 permit is issued to an individual, it encompasses everyone
45 who resides permanently within his household.

46
47 MS. SWAN: Okay.

48
49 MR. TWITCHELL: And in the case of Dan
50 O'Connor, as he grew up and left his father's household, he

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1 applied for his own subsistence use permit from the Park.
2 And indeed, received his permit based on his personal use as
3 well as his family's past traditional use.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hollis, can I ask a
6 question?

7
8 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Basically then what this is
11 saying then is that rather than having to go through the C&T
12 process, if they have proven traditional and customary use in
13 the Park and have a permit to use the Park, they will be
14 granted C&T, not on an individual basis but on a group basis;
15 am I summarizing it pretty closely?

16
17 MR. TWITCHELL: I believe that is the intent
18 of what was recommended by the Councils.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So they don't have to go
21 through two processes as individuals?

22
23 MR. TWITCHELL: That's correct.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They still have to go
26 through the process of showing that they had used the Park
27 and have had customary and traditionally, basically, you
28 might as well say, in the Park, it's not customary and
29 traditional but prior use of the Park?

30
31 MR. TWITCHELL: That's correct.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And this applies only to
34 Park land?

35
36 MR. TWITCHELL: That is correct. The reason
37 it was also recommended that they use the permitting process,
38 since the individuals have come forth already and
39 demonstrated their traditional use, that would be handled
40 different in a resident zone or anyone who resides in a
41 resident zone benefits from the community -- the
42 identification as a resident zone as having a customary and
43 traditional use of Park resources. Individuals within those
44 resident zones haven't come forward and produced the sort of
45 review that normally goes through with someone who applies
46 for a subsistence use permit. That's the reason why in the
47 Dan O'Connor proposal they recommended using the 1344
48 permitting process as the basis for making the
49 authorizations.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, that was the next
2 question I was going to ask you. Basically you're talking
3 about the 1344 process. So it doesn't include everybody
4 that's in a resident zone, it includes only those people who
5 come forward, done the 1344 and have individual status and
6 have shown prior use, not that they moved into an area but
7 that they have had prior use?

8
9 MR. TWITCHELL: That is correct.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

12
13 MR. TWITCHELL: And how the Park Service
14 handles customary and traditional use with the 1344 is we, as
15 a condition to the permit, say that the Federal Subsistence
16 Board's customary and traditional use determinations are a
17 component of the permit and the individual needs to abide by
18 those. So in essence we assimilate the Federal Subsistence
19 Board C&T determinations into the permit itself.

20
21 In the situation like Dan O'Connor where he's asking
22 for something that would not be provided within the Federal
23 C&T process, he has come forth with additional information
24 substantiating why he's asking for something beyond what the
25 other subsistence users are entitled to. And that
26 information is then included into his records and we would
27 then add another condition in his permit saying that Dan
28 O'Connor would, indeed, have demonstrated his traditional use
29 of moose in Units 20(C) and 13(E), and that would be
30 incorporated into the permit as well. So that would be the
31 process that we would go through to recognize that.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Hollis. Do we
34 have the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that wish to
35 speak on this one here?

36
37 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We
38 originally opposed this proposal because it was too --
39 covered too much area and we -- the Staff -- the preliminary
40 conclusion, we support for the reasons given in the
41 justification. We think this focuses now on Park lands, and
42 we're pleased to see the written solicitor's opinion on this
43 and we support the preliminary conclusions stated in the
44 justification.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So you support it as
47 modified?

48
49 MR. HAYNES: Yes.

50

00392

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. This is
2 basically the way that the Southcentral, the Eastern Interior
3 and what was the other Council?

4
5 MS. MASON: Western.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Western Council suggested
8 handling it?

9
10 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes, it is.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you. Any
13 questions? Thank you, Hollis.

14
15 MR. F. JOHN: I got a question. These
16 proposals, do they go straight to the Park or do we have to
17 -- they go through us?

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The Park.

20
21 MR. F. JOHN: It just goes straight through
22 the Park? We really don't have to do anything with it?

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

25
26 MR. TWITCHELL: That's correct.

27
28 MR. F. JOHN: Good.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Other agency comments.
31 Eastern Interior. You've already gone on record as
32 supporting it?

33
34 MR. GOOD: You know where we are. We're just
35 hoping he doesn't die of old age before he gets it.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Advisory committee.

38
39 MR. ENTSMINGER: We didn't comment on this
40 particular one because it was more or less out of our
41 jurisdiction. But the other two similar proposals we
42 support.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You support it. Question.
45 If we pass this one here, the other two don't even need
46 touched, do they? Because they will be covered by this one
47 here?

48
49 MR. TWITCHELL: That was the reason that I
50 suggested that this proposal be handled first, it would shed

00393

1 light on how future requests could be handled.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Written public
4 comments. Helga, you can't run out for coffee right now.

5

6 MS. EAKON: This proposal was supported by
7 Eastern Interior Regional Council and Western Interior
8 Regional Council and by the Delta Advisory Committee.

9

10 The Denali Subsistence Resource Commission said to
11 modify. The Denali Commission supports Proposal 25 as
12 modified by the Eastern Interior, Western Interior and the
13 Southcentral Regional Advisory Councils in their 1998
14 deliberations of deferred Proposal 38.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Is there any
17 public testimony? Okay, hearing none, we'll go on to
18 Regional Council deliberation, recommendation. We've got two
19 choices, we could put a motion on the table as it's written
20 or as it's modified and then we can have it for discussion.

21

22 MR. KOMPKOFF: I'd like to make a motion that
23 as modified.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second?

26

27 MR. DEMENTI: Second.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Second by Gilbert. Okay.
30 Basically it sounds like it's modified to the suggestions
31 that we, and other Councils have made in the past.

32

33 MR. TWITCHELL: That's correct.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we have any other
36 discussion on it?

37

38 MS. SWAN: Question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been called. All
41 in favor signify by saying aye.

42

43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
46 saying nay.

47

48 (No opposing responses)

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. And then

00394

1 that basically handles Proposal 9 and 11 as I see it, am I
2 correct in that assumption?

3
4 MS. MASON: I think so.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because they will then have
7 to follow the same process that's been aligned here on
8 Proposal 25?

9
10 MR. TWITCHELL: That is correct.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If it's accepted by the
13 Board?

14
15 MR. TWITCHELL: Everything is contingent upon
16 the Board.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But that's what I mean, do
19 we need to make a recommendation on 9 and 11 then in case
20 this isn't recommended by the Board -- accepted by the Board?
21 Bill.

22
23 MR. KNAUER: Mr. Chairman, I think it would
24 be much clearer and demonstrate the Councils' intent that
25 this should apply -- this should be a policy that should
26 apply to all as opposed to just this one instance.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically we could take
29 Proposal 9 and 11 and say that we request the same
30 modification be applied to them as we suggested in Proposal
31 25?

32
33 MR. KNAUER: That, or you could say in all
34 circumstances involving 1344 permits.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, I think that's a good
37 idea. So Proposal 9 and 11 and all 1344 permits, that same
38 principle that we suggested for 25 be applied, right.

39
40 MR. F. JOHN: Are we going to need a motion?

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We need a motion.

43
44 MR. F. JOHN: I make a motion.

45
46 MR. DEMENTI: Second.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and seconded
49 that with regard to Proposals 9 and 11 and all 1344 permits
50 in the future, that the same modification that we passed on

00395

1 Proposal 25 be applied.

2

3 MR. KOMPKOFF: Question.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is that clear enough?

6

7 MS. SWAN: Yes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been called. All
10 in favor signify by saying aye.

11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
15 saying nay.

16

17 (No opposing responses)

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I voted aye, I just
20 forgot to say it. Motion carries unanimously.

21

22 Okay, I think we need a five minute break.

23

24 (Off record - 11:18 a.m.)

25 (On record - 11:41 a.m.)

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, at this point in time,
28 we're on Proposal 50. Request for establishment of C&T on
29 black bear in Unit 12. These are proposals that originate in
30 the Eastern Interior Region and effect residents of
31 Southcentral. George, are you going to lead off on this one?

32

33 MR. SHERROD: Yeah, I'm going to take off on
34 this one.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, then.

37

38 MR. SHERROD: I sort of touched on it when I
39 was up here at the table earlier. This proposal was before
40 you last year, it was before the Eastern Interior Council
41 last year. Their actions last year was to adopt a
42 determination that was basically Unit 12 and surrounding
43 subunits and units, and at their direction I wrote a few
44 paragraphs of justification following the sort of generalized
45 behavior patterns of rural hunters in Alaska who travel
46 between the resident unit and the adjacent unit was not
47 excessive.

48

49 The Board, as I said, had trouble with it -- oh,
50 excuse me, then when you took the proposal up you backed the

00396

1 same recommendation that the Eastern Interior had put forth.
2 The Board wasn't comfortable with it and sent it back. This
3 year the analysis, I went through and reanalyzed and probably
4 the easiest thing to do is just to jump to the preliminary
5 conclusion which is on Page 14.

6
7 As Rachel said, because of the lack of bear data in
8 general, the sort of strategy we've taken is to look at those
9 communities that have a recorded harvest of moose or caribou
10 and/or a positive C&T in those units and include them. As it
11 turns out, with the exception of Unit 11, McCarthy area, we
12 had a documented harvest of bear or other resources in Unit
13 12 and so the suggestion this year, the conclusion this year
14 mirrors pretty much what happened last year with the Eastern
15 Interior by de facto had decided on. And after hearing the
16 stories about Cordova and McCarthy, I probably believe that
17 we inadvertently left some people out, but again, you know,
18 just lack of data.

19
20 And I'm going to jump ahead to Mr. Good's section.
21 The Council said, well, that's all fine and good, basically,
22 but we're not going to make a determination on black bear if
23 there's no need to.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what Eastern decided?

26
27 MR. SHERROD: That's what Eastern decided.
28 And the question was not effected by this proposal so they
29 didn't stand on this proposal.

30
31 So their recommendation is to leave it as it stands,
32 no determination, all rural residents.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: This is for in Unit 12?

35
36 MR. SHERROD: Right.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's the recommendation of
39 Eastern. Does anybody have any questions for George?
40 George, thank you. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

41
42 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Department
43 believes that the Staff have addressed comments that we
44 raised on the original proposal and that we're comfortable in
45 supporting the preliminary conclusion. We're equally
46 comfortable in supporting the Eastern Interior Council's
47 position. But the concern we raised on the original proposal
48 have been addressed and we appreciate Staff looking at some
49 of the suggestions we made.

50

00397

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. So you are
2 comfortable with Eastern Interior's solution?

3
4 MR. HAYNES: Yes.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any questions
7 for Fish and Game? Okay, thank you. At this point in time,
8 Eastern Interior.

9
10 MR. GOOD: Well, you already know where we
11 stand on just retaining all rural residents on this
12 particular item.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what you're
15 supporting on Unit 12?

16
17 MR. GOOD: Right.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, do we have any Fish
20 and Game Advisory Committee comments?

21
22 MR. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chair, Council members,
23 Frank Entsminger for Upper Tanana LAC. Yeah, we opposed the
24 original proposal. And I want to make it clear on the record
25 that we have no problems with Mentasta and Chistochina
26 hunting black bears in Unit 12 but we felt it was, way too
27 restrictive. We hadn't really had a chance as a committee to
28 look at the Staff analysis and what they came up with. But
29 we basically felt as Eastern Interior that a no determination
30 would be a better way to go at this point in time. Because
31 we don't feel that there's any reason to put restrictions on
32 black bears in Unit 12.

33
34 A similar proposal that went through the system and
35 passed about a year ago was, you know, the usage of black
36 bear, there were black bear determinations made for Unit 11,
37 which excluded Upper Tanana from all black bear hunting south
38 of the Sanford River which we thought was totally
39 unnecessary. And this is why we -- one of the foundations
40 for why we took this approach in Unit 12. We don't want
41 things like that happening in Unit 12. We don't want to
42 exclude a legitimate subsistence user to take a bear in Unit
43 12.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. So basically
46 you're supporting the same position that Eastern Interior
47 Council took?

48
49 MR. ENTSMINGER: We would prefer that, yes.

50

00398

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

2

3 MR. ENTSMINGER: If a determination has to be
4 made, it should be all inclusive of all the users.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Summary of
7 written public comments.

8

9 MS. EAKON: Only one. Upper Tanana Fortymile
10 Advisory Committee opposed saying that this is unnecessarily
11 restrictive given the black bear population.

12

13 End of written public comments.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any questions.
16 Public testimony. Do we have any public testimony on this
17 one?

18

19 MS. STICKWAN: Just to include everyone.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So you go along with
22 Eastern Interior?

23

24 MS. STICKWAN: No determination?

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

27

28 MS. STICKWAN: Everyone included?

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Now, Regional Council
31 deliberation, recommendation, justification. We have two
32 options -- three options actually, we can make a motion to
33 address this as written, we can make a motion to modify it or
34 we can make a motion to defer to the expertise of the Council
35 in which area Unit 12 is.

36

37 Do I hear a motion? No motion. If we make no motion
38 it just dies and then it will be up to what Eastern Interior
39 decides.

40

41 MS. MASON: No action.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The proposal has no action
44 for lack of a motion. That doesn't mean it comes back to us
45 again, does it?

46

47 MS. MASON: I don't think so.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. That would be not
50 very -- on to Proposal 51, request alignment of moose season

00399

1 in Unit 12. Pete.

2

3 MR. DeMATTEO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name
4 is Pete DeMatteo, I'm with the Office of Subsistence
5 Management. I'm the biologist for the Eastern and Western
6 Interior regions. Mr. Chair, you'll find Proposal 51 under
7 Tab U on Page 21.

8

9 This proposal was submitted by the Eastern Interior
10 Regional Council which would change the current Federal moose
11 seasons for all three Federal hunt areas in Unit 12 from
12 August 20 through the 28th to match the State's August 15 to
13 28th season. The existing Federal regulations for moose
14 hunting in Unit 12 are more restrictive than current State
15 regulations which provide an additional 15 days of combined
16 opportunity for the three Federal hunt areas and open five
17 days earlier on August 15th.

18

19 Data collected during annual moose surveys during
20 1989, 1990, 94 and '97 indicate the Unit 12 moose population
21 increased between 1982 and 1989 and has grown slowly since
22 1993. The 1997 and 1998 preliminary moose harvest was 120
23 bulls with a 25 percent hunter success rate. Harvest and
24 success rates were 123 bulls and 25 percent success rate in
25 1996. Expansion of the current season for Unit 12 would not
26 adversely impact existing moose populations. New additional
27 harvest is anticipated as users who harvest moose in Unit 12
28 during the proposed season currently do so under the State
29 regulations.

30

31 Mr. Chair, essentially the intent behind this
32 proposal is strictly to align the Federal and State seasons.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And this will lengthen the
35 Federal season, right?

36

37 MR. DeMATTEO: Correct. It will lengthen the
38 Federal season five days. It will start five days earlier.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And this proposal's put in
41 by Eastern Interior Council?

42

43 MR. DeMATTEO: Yes, sir.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

46

47 MR. DeMATTEO: The preliminary conclusion is
48 to support the proposal.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions for Pete?

00400

1 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

2

3 MR. McDONALD: We support it.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You support it?

6

7 MR. McDONALD: Yes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: In that case, Eastern
10 Interior.

11

12 MR. GOOD: We support it.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I know you support it.
15 Are you requesting our support for your support or would it
16 be just as easy since it's in your area that we take no
17 action?

18

19 MR. GOOD: Yeah, you could do it either way.
20 Essentially this does effect people from your region so.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That go up to your area?

23

24 MR. GOOD: Right.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But in the past we have
27 always deferred unless it's a joint proposal, we've deferred
28 to the other Councils on matters that are in their region.

29

30 MR. GOOD: The way you handle it is
31 absolutely up to you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Fish and Game
34 Advisory Committee comments on it.

35

36 MR. ENTSMINGER: We support.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Support. Summary of written
39 public testimony.

40

41 MS. EAKON: Written comments. Both the Upper
42 Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee and Wrangell-St. Elias
43 Subsistence Resource Commission support Proposal 51.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Is there any
46 public testimony on this proposal? CRNA.

47

48 MS. STICKWAN: We support longer seasons
49 (inaudible away from microphone)

50

00401

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. So CRNA supports
2 it also?

3
4 MS. STICKWAN: (Nods affirmatively)

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. At this point in time
7 it's Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and
8 justification. We have again, the same three choices. We
9 can either take this Proposal 51 as it is and support it, we
10 can make a modified proposal or we can take no action and
11 leave it up to Eastern Regional. We've heard a lot of
12 support for it so it's up to you guys.

13
14 MR. KOMPKOFF: I would like to make a motion
15 to agree with all the rest of them.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: To support it?

18
19 MR. KOMPKOFF: Yes.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: As written?

22
23 MR. KOMPKOFF: As written.

24
25 MS. SWAN: Second.

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We have a second. Need any
28 discussion on it, you've heard comments.

29
30 MR. F. JOHN: Question.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been called. All
33 in favor signify by saying aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Opposed signify by saying
38 nay.

39
40 (No opposing responses)

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, so we've given Eastern
43 Regional Council our support. Proposal 53.

44
45 MR. DeMATTEO: Proposal 53 is on Page 29 of
46 your book. This proposal is again submitted by the Eastern
47 Interior Regional Advisory Council and this would change the
48 existing November 1 through January 31 Federal lynx hunting
49 season for Unit 12 to match the State's November 1 through
50 March 15 season. The existing Federal lynx hunting

00402

1 regulations for Unit 12 are more restrictive than current
2 State regulations which provide an additional 43 days of
3 opportunity. Currently there is a no customary and
4 traditional use determination for lynx in Unit 12.

5
6 The lynx population in Unit 12 is currently at a high
7 level according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
8 The reporters trappers harvest for the 1996 and '97 season
9 was 145 lynx. The overall fur harvest was lower in '97 and
10 '98 due to trapper participation was low. Market prices were
11 barely adequate for marten and lynx early in the season
12 however season prices dropped later in that season due to
13 levels which prompted most local trappers to pull their traps
14 for that season.

15
16 Lynx were considered common by Unit 12 trappers
17 during 1996 and '97 based upon trapper questionnaires and
18 discussions with trappers which were conducted by the Alaska
19 Department of Fish and Game. Local trappers also indicated
20 that lynx were common to abundant in that unit during the
21 '97/98 season.

22
23 Expansion of the existing Federal season for lynx in
24 Unit 12 would not adversely impact existing lynx population
25 as no additional harvest is anticipated as users who harvest
26 lynx in that unit currently do so under the State
27 regulations.

28
29 Again, Mr. Chair, the intent of this proposal is to
30 align the lynx season with the State season. And the
31 preliminary conclusion is to support the proposal.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically this would also
34 lengthen the Federal season to match the State season.

35
36 MR. DeMATTEO: Yes, sir.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any questions.
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

40
41 MR. McDONALD: Support it.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You support the proposal?

44
45 MR. McDONALD: Yes.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Eastern Interior, you're the
48 ones that submitted it, I take for granted you support it?

49
50 MR. GOOD: You bet.

00403

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You support the proposal.

2
3 MR. GOOD: Yes.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fish and Game Advisory
6 Councils -- Committee's, I mean.

7
8 MR. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chair, Council members,
9 yeah, I believe we supported this proposal. There was some
10 discussion as far as, you know, the high and low cycles of
11 lynx. You know, we felt possibly at some point in time when
12 the lynx cycle starts to go down that you would have a
13 little, you know, excessive hunting season on them. And
14 there was talk about trying to get the lynx tracking system
15 set up even within the Federal regulations. Right now, area
16 biologists have the authority to basically set seasons for
17 trapping on lynx as the cycles adjust, and they don't have to
18 go through the Board of Game on it.

19
20 And although, I don't think we came forth with any
21 proposal at this time, but we were discussing that type of a
22 scenario even on the Federal side of things. But, yes, we
23 supported it initially.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You supported it. Question,
26 Pete, if there was a problem with lynx populations, how hard
27 is it -- would it be for the Federal to shorten their season?

28
29 MR. DeMATTEO: Essentially the management
30 objectives are set forth by the Alaska Department of Fish and
31 Game, and we basically follow suit with those management
32 objectives. To answer your question, it sounds like the
33 Alaska Department of Fish and Game has a little more leeway
34 on the closure of a season for more restrictive harvest. We
35 would essentially have to go through the Federal Subsistence
36 Board with a special action request. Normally, that's not a
37 same day event, it takes several days to work that through
38 the process. Staff would have to write an analysis and then
39 it has to go up the chain for approval.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's not likely that it
42 would be necessary for a same day, but if it was from one
43 season to the next, would there be any problem?

44
45 MR. DeMATTEO: There should not be a problem,
46 no sir.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bill.

49
50 MR. KNAUER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I could

00404

1 address that a little more directly. A number of years ago
2 the Department approached the Federal Subsistence Board
3 asking concurrence or adoption of the lynx harvest tracking
4 strategy which does adjust on a unit by unit basis, either
5 expanding or contracting the season or changing the harvest
6 limits. And the Board did indicate support for that policy
7 and annually the Board does make the adjustments, although
8 there is a review, it has been a -- not quite automatic, but
9 almost automatic approval of those adjustments based on the
10 population changes in the lynx throughout the Interior and
11 Southcentral area.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we don't have any
14 biological fears over this because there would be sufficient
15 time to make adjustments by the following season?

16
17 MR. KNAUER: That's correct. And the Board
18 has done so on an annual basis, both increasing seasons and
19 decreasing seasons as appropriate with the cycles in the
20 different areas.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Pete.

23
24 MR. DeMATTEO: More about the mechanics,
25 basically it takes an after season evaluation of the harvest.
26 And also as I mentioned, the Alaska Department of Fish and
27 Game conducts trapper questionnaires and also interviews
28 trappers so it's always an after the fact.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

31
32 MR. DeMATTEO: Yeah, it probably would not be
33 an in-season, it would take the next regulatory cycle. But
34 there would be adequate time, yes.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Okay, yes, Don.

37
38 MR. KOMPKOFF: The lynx season right now is
39 -- there's quite a few lynx up in that area?

40
41 MR. DeMATTEO: Again, according to the
42 questionnaires and discussions that the Alaska Department of
43 Fish and Game have had with Unit 12 trappers, the trappers
44 feel that lynx are in relative abundance right now.

45
46 MR. KOMPKOFF: I noticed when I was trapping
47 out of Valdez, whenever the rabbits are abundance there was a
48 lot of lynx.

49
50 MR. DeMATTEO: This is recent years?

00405

1 MR. KOMPKOFF: Yes.

2
3 MR. DeMATTEO: Yeah.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we have any written
6 testimony?

7
8 MS. EAKON: Both the Upper Tanana Fortymile
9 Advisory Committee and Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence
10 Resource Commission support Proposal 53.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Public testimony on
13 this one. CRNA, do you want to make a comment on this one
14 here, on the extension of the lynx season in Unit 12?

15
16 MS. STICKWAN: No, there's no C&T on it.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you. Okay,
19 again, we're back to the same kind of a scenario, we can
20 either make a motion to accept as written and support Eastern
21 Interior, we can make a motion to modify it or we can take no
22 action on it. What's the wish of the Council?

23
24 MR. KOMPKOFF: I'll make a motion to agree
25 with the.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Eastern Interior.

28
29 MR. KOMPKOFF:Eastern Interior.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. To support Eastern
32 Interior in their request. Do I hear a second?

33
34 MS. SWAN: Second.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
37 seconded. Moved by Don, seconded by Clare. Any discussion.
38 All in favor signify by saying aye.

39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
43 saying nay.

44
45 (No opposing responses)

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries unanimously.
48 At this point in time, let's take ourselves.....

49
50 MS. SWAN: It's 12:00 o'clock.

00406

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's 12:15 right now.

2

3 MS. SWAN: It's 12:00 o'clock.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, you're like my wife you
6 set your clocks so fast so you're there early. We've got one
7 more proposal, I don't know how long it's going to take to go
8 through this proposal.

9

10 MR. SHERROD: It shouldn't take long, Mr.
11 Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's not a controversial
14 proposal?

15

16 MS. SWAN: What's that? Let's go eat.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can we afford to take an
19 extra 15 minutes for lunch since we're going into the
20 afternoon anyhow?

21

22 MS. SWAN: Of course.

23

24 MS. EAKON: And I wanted to mention that
25 Brenda Becker personally did want to give a report and I
26 called her mom's home and said that she should come after
27 lunch.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: After lunch?

30

31 MS. EAKON: Yes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So she'll be giving her
34 report when now? It's under agency reports?

35

36 MS. EAKON: Agency reports, yeah.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, let's -- we should
39 finish fairly early this afternoon, I wouldn't mind a little
40 longer lunch break, what's everybody else's feelings on it?

41

42 MS. SWAN: You're the boss, let's go eat.

43

44 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, 1:30?

47

48 MS. SWAN: Yeah.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 1:30, we're reconvening at

00407

1 1:30, unless this causes hardship for anybody.

2
3 MS. SWAN: No.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does this cause hardship for
6 anybody out there?

7
8 MS. SWAN: Be still my heart.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, if it doesn't cause
11 hardship we will renew at 1:30.

12
13 (Off record - 12:06 p.m.)
14 (On record - 1:42 p.m.)

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We'll call this session of
17 the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
18 back in order. At this point we're going on to Proposals 20
19 and 54. Request establishment for black bear in Unit 13 and
20 Unit 20(A) and 20(C) and for brown bears in Unit 20(A) and
21 20(C). George, you're going to lead us into this?

22
23 MR. SHERROD: Yes, I am.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Go ahead.

26
27 MR. SHERROD: The Unit 13 section of this
28 proposal was dealt with in the analysis under 19, so was
29 before you was only black bear and brown bear in 20(A) and
30 20(C). These two species were analyzed together, in part,
31 because the community information is the same and partially
32 because of the generic nature of bear data available to us.

33
34 As with the black bear determinations that were
35 presented earlier, the current status is no determination for
36 both of these resources, so any rural Alaska resident is
37 currently eligible to harvest black or brown bear in these
38 areas. And although it's not supposed to make much of a
39 difference, if you look behind you there's literally no land
40 in 20(A) that's under Federal jurisdiction and the Park is
41 the primary portion of land in 20(C). So there's very little
42 Federal land under consideration here.

43
44 As with the other bear proposals, because of the
45 limited data and the reluctance on the part of Interior
46 Athabascans to discuss, particularly brown bear harvest, the
47 analysis relied heavily on other resources in trying to draw
48 a consideration, that is, moose and caribou where people have
49 existing customary and traditional use determinations or have
50 demonstrated a harvest in a consistent nature in these areas,

00408

1 coupled with the limited bear data available.

2

3 On Page 47 is the primary conclusion for 20, and on
4 Page 54 is the conclusion for -- I mean on Page 48 is the
5 conclusion for Proposal 54. They are basically the same.
6 And again, include those communities that have some
7 demonstrated harvest of resources in the area.

8

9 And I'm going to jump ahead with Nat's approval here,
10 the Eastern Interior Council again, as they did with the
11 black bear proposal in Unit 12, voted to reject both of these
12 proposals on the grounds that the limited data would probably
13 lead to the potential exclusion of some subsistence user and
14 they felt there was not a need to make a determination on
15 these species at this time.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: George, can I ask you a
18 question?

19

20 MR. SHERROD: Yes.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For the record, who was
23 asking for these proposals?

24

25 MR. SHERROD: These are deferred proposals
26 that have been with us for quite a while, and I think we're
27 missing a page for Proposal 20, but Proposal 54 was a backlog
28 proposal, it came from the Middle Nenana River Fish and
29 Advisory Council, and I think was submitted at the time that
30 this proposal -- that this program became in effect, in '91
31 and '92. And was submitted in a time when it was the intent
32 of the Federal program to make broad, sweeping once and for
33 all, it will be all over C&T determinations.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. So these proposals
36 originated in Eastern Interior region and.....

37

38 MR. SHERROD: Yes.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:have been acted on by
41 the -- or have been acted on actually by the Eastern Interior
42 Region Council?

43

44 MR. SHERROD: Yes. I believe 20 might have
45 come for -- did it come from Copper River, Rachel?

46

47 MS. MASON: No.

48

49 MS. STICKWAN: Nenana.

50

00409

1 MS. MASON: Twenty was submitted by the
2 Denali Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

3
4 MR. SHERROD: Okay. The reason they're
5 before you is basically Cantwell.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically these take
8 place in these take place in the Eastern Interior Region?

9
10 MR. SHERROD: Yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Eastern Interior Region has
13 suggested not acting on these proposals as proposed?

14
15 MR. SHERROD: Not to make a determination for
16 these two resources at this time for the two units.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And since ours, on Unit 13
19 has already been taken care of, they don't even really effect
20 our region?

21
22 MR. SHERROD: Other than users from your --
23 from Cantwell, which falls within your region is potentially
24 impacted particularly with Denali.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If they would be excluded?

27
28 MR. SHERROD: If they would be excluded.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. But under the current
31 status they wouldn't be excluded?

32
33 MR. SHERROD: Under the current status they
34 wouldn't be excluded. Under the Staff recommendation they
35 would be included. And under the Eastern Regional Council's
36 action they also would still be allowed to hunt.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Anybody else have any
39 questions for George?

40
41 MR. SHERROD: I might add, Mr. Chair, that
42 this proposal also effected the Western Council and the
43 Western Council followed the Eastern's lead and rejected both
44 proposals.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So they concurred with
47 Eastern Interior Regional Council?

48
49 MR. SHERROD: Right. To leave it at a no
50 determination.

00410

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you. With that
2 we'll go on to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

3
4 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
5 Department, on Proposal 20 dealing with black bear, we
6 believe the Staff analysis has provided responses to
7 questions we posed on the original proposal and we could
8 support the Staff analysis for Proposal 20.

9
10 For Proposal 54, we're not confident that sufficient
11 information has been presented to demonstrate that the
12 positive customary and traditional finding should be made for
13 the specific residents and communities in Units 20(A) and
14 20(C). And as a result of that we're equally comfortable in
15 supporting the recommendations of both the Eastern and
16 Western Interior Regional Councils.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Other agency
19 comments. Are there any Park Service or anybody that would
20 like to comment on this one? Hollis.

21
22 MR. TWITCHELL: Mr. Chair, Council members,
23 Hollis Twitchell, Denali Park. I just wanted to mention the
24 positions that the SRC took regarding these proposals.

25
26 Last year in reviewing them they recommended not to
27 make a C&T determination because they felt the populations
28 were sufficient and there wasn't the need to make it. They
29 also, last year, noted that one of their communities in
30 20(C), Lake Minchumnia wasn't listed in the initial analysis,
31 and so they wanted to make sure that that community was
32 indeed included. Seeing that all of the resident zone and
33 subsistence users for Denali were covered in the existing
34 analysis this year, they went ahead and supported this
35 proposal, recognizing that the Denali users were included in
36 the analysis.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So they supported the
39 proposal as written?

40
41 MR. TWITCHELL: As amended.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: As amended by the Eastern
44 Interior?

45
46 MR. TWITCHELL: No.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, as amended with the
49 additional of the Lake Minchumnia people?

50

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1 MR. TWITCHELL: That's correct.

2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

4
5 MR. TWITCHELL: So as the proposal was
6 written this year, for Proposal 54, the Denali Commission
7 supports this proposal as modified in the analysis.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All right.

10
11 MR. TWITCHELL: For the reasons stated in the
12 justification.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, so they did not concur
15 with Eastern Interior and Western Interior?

16
17 MR. TWITCHELL: No, they reviewed the
18 proposal and its analysis and concurred with it, seeing that
19 all of the Denali subsistence users were included within that
20 analysis.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Can I ask you one
23 more question, Hollis, at that time, had Eastern Interior and
24 Western Interior already come up with their recommendations?

25
26 MR. TWITCHELL: They had not, they met before
27 the Eastern and Western Council meetings.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So this decision was made
30 prior to Eastern Interior and Western Interior?

31
32 MR. TWITCHELL: That's correct.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't know if you can
35 answer this one, but would they or the Park Service have a
36 problem with Eastern Interior or Western Interior's
37 recommendation?

38
39 MR. TWITCHELL: I know from the Park
40 Service's standpoint I would not since all the known
41 subsistence users in the communities are included.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: In that?

44
45 MR. TWITCHELL: In it.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And it would not, because
48 it's so broad based, it would not add any other users to the
49 Park because the Park has a.....

50

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1 MR. TWITCHELL: Eligibility of resident zones
2 and permits, that's correct.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any other
5 questions for Hollis? Okay, at this time we have Eastern
6 Interior, and we've heard Eastern Interior's recommendations
7 and that still stands, right?

8
9 MR. GOOD: Absolutely.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Fish and Game
12 Advisory Committees, do we have anybody who wishes to speak
13 to that? I don't see any out there. Summary of written
14 public testimony.

15
16 MS. EAKON: There was only one comment for
17 both proposals and Hollis just now presented it, Denali SRC.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Denali SRC?

20
21 MS. EAKON: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, public testimony. I
24 don't see any of the public with pink slips in here that want
25 to testify on this one. So Regional Council deliberation and
26 recommendation, justification. Again, we have choices, we
27 can put a motion on the table to accept it as written, a
28 motion on the table to accept it as modified, or a motion to
29 go along with the request of the Eastern and Western Interior
30 Regional Councils or just take no action. What's the wish of
31 the Council?

32
33 MR. F. JOHN: No action.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, so we're deferring
36 then to the Eastern Regional Council who's unit it is?

37
38 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, thank you, George.

41
42 MR. SHERROD: Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you for all your work.

45
46 MR. SHERROD: Well, thank you for allowing me
47 to participate.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, so no action on 20 and
50 54, we'll defer to the Council of the region in which this

00413

1 takes place.

2

3 Okay, at this point in time, Helga's going to talk to
4 us about Regional Council application process. We already
5 talked about Donald not being with us and I see we have Ben
6 Romig and we didn't get to -- we didn't get to thank him
7 since he skipped out today sick, and I don't mean skipped
8 out. And if I look at this correct, is Gilbert's term up,
9 too?

10

11 MR. DEMENTI: Yep.

12

13 MS. EAKON: Yes, Seat 1 currently held by
14 Gilbert Dementi, Seat 2 currently held by Don Kompkoff, and
15 Seat 3 currently held by Ben Romig are going to become open
16 for appointment later on this fall.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can I ask a question,
19 Gilbert, are you going to reapply?

20

21 MR. DEMENTI: I turned in my application
22 already.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

25

26 MR. DEMENTI: I'll go to jail with you guys.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I believe Ben is not?

29

30 MS. EAKON: Ben is not reapplying and neither
31 is Don.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sad to hear that.

34

35 MS. EAKON: But I put this on the agenda to
36 remind anyone in the audience who wanted to apply, we do have
37 a couple of applications back there on the information table,
38 and the deadline's tomorrow.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The deadline is tomorrow?

41

42 MS. EAKON: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

43

44 MR. F. JOHN: Don, better sign up tomorrow,
45 the deadline's tomorrow.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, I hope everybody heard
48 that. There are a couple applications back there and the
49 deadline is tomorrow. So don't everybody rush into it at
50 once, but the door is open.

00414

1 Okay, with that, we are going on to agency reports.
2 Because we've got all afternoon, they can be as long as they
3 want to be.

4
5 MS. EAKON: I just put Fish and Wildlife,
6 Office of Subsistence Management just in case something came
7 up that we had to report on. But I know of nothing, Bill, do
8 you?

9
10 MR. KNAUER: Well, only two things. Rosa
11 Meehan, who many of you know is the Chief of the Division of
12 Resources has taken a position as the head of the Marine
13 Mammals Office in the Fish and Wildlife Service here in
14 Anchorage, so her position is currently vacant and I think
15 it's currently being advertised. So that is one personnel
16 change that you should be aware of.

17
18 The other thing, Tom Boyd, who was the Deputy
19 Assistant Regional Director for Subsistence is now the
20 Assistant Regional Director for Subsistence Management
21 reporting directly to the Regional Director. And that Deputy
22 position is vacant and will be advertised in the near future.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bill, was that so everybody
25 here knew that those were open and could apply for those
26 positions?

27
28 MR. KNAUER: Well, there is that possibility
29 but we did want to, you know, just let you know that there
30 has been some movement in personnel and you all know Rosa and
31 if you were wondering why she wasn't coming to the meetings,
32 that's why.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think you can tell her
35 thank you from this Council for the work that she's done for
36 us in the past.

37
38 MR. KNAUER: We'll certainly pass that on to
39 her.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And we wish Tom success in
42 his new position and hope we get somebody to fill his old
43 position as capably as he was able to do.

44
45 MR. KNAUER: We agree.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
48 Service, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Robert.

49
50 MR. WILLIS: Mr. Chair, Mark Chase was here

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1 yesterday but I think he had a conflict and couldn't be here
2 today. Since we didn't get to him yesterday, he did provide
3 a written report which is in your book under Tab W.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

6
7 MR. WILLIS: Just to summarize it very
8 briefly, he mentioned the very hard winter that we're having
9 on the Kenai Peninsula. Extremely deep snow and severe cold
10 is going to have a significant impact on the moose
11 population, particularly the calf crop for next year.

12
13 The other thing that he mentioned, I think you're all
14 aware of the wolf transplant program, where the State has
15 been trapping wolves in the Fortymile Caribou country and
16 transplanting some to the Kenai. That program is being
17 suspended. They have two wolves -- two of those transplanted
18 wolves killed down there this winter, one by a trapper and
19 one by a moose. They checked those wolves and found that
20 both exhibited the same lice problem that the resident Kenai
21 wolves had and the hope was that they would be able to
22 genetically resist that problem and possibly help the
23 existing Kenai population of wolves to develop an immunity.
24 Apparently that hasn't happened based on the two that they've
25 examined. And so according to Mark's report, that program is
26 being suspended.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Out of curiosity, have you
29 heard any other reports that that's spreading to other areas?
30 I know in our area a couple of the wolves that I know of
31 personally, that were caught this winter had patches of hair
32 missing and everything and looked -- and I heard rumors that
33 it also had shown up in Matanuska and a couple other areas.

34
35 MR. WILLIS: I haven't heard any reports on
36 it myself.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

39
40 MR. F. JOHN: Did that wolf make it back
41 home?

42
43 MR. WILLIS: I believe that the wolf that
44 traveled all the way from the Kenai headed back to Fortymile
45 country, it did make it back to that area and was
46 subsequently taken by a trapper.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Did he have lice when he got
49 there?

50

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1 MR. WILLIS: That may not be correct, let's
2 get a report from Fish and Game.

3
4 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Terry Haynes,
5 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The wolf did not make it
6 back to Fortymile country, the wolf made it up to the Mat-Su
7 Valley as I recall and was trapped there.

8
9 MR. GOOD: Wasn't there -- actually he turned
10 back south again?

11
12 MR. HAYNES: I think that's correct, yes.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just out of curiosity, has
15 the Fish and Game had reports of lice infestation in other
16 areas this winter?

17
18 MR. HAYNES: Nat and I both serve on the
19 Fortymile Caribou Management Team and we had a meeting in
20 late February and there was discussion of the lice issue on
21 the Kenai Peninsula, and I don't recall if anything specific
22 was said.

23
24 MR. GOOD: There were some wolves taken in
25 the Palmer area that did -- showed the lice infestation.
26 They don't know if they've stopped it at that point or not.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I think there's going
29 to be a couple -- for all I -- I'm pretty sure there's been a
30 couple taken to the Fish and Game in Glenallen, from our
31 area, that we didn't know for sure -- our neighboring
32 trappers didn't know for sure whether it was mange or whether
33 it was lice or whether it was previous injuries, but one of
34 them had an area about this big missing hair and kind of
35 rough and ragged on the side and another one had it right
36 between the shoulder blades. And one of them that we caught
37 had a small area right between the shoulder blades where the
38 hair was matted, but that one wasn't defined enough to say
39 that there was a sore there. But the other two looked bad
40 enough, I told them to take them into the Fish and Game, I
41 hope they did.

42
43 MR. KOMPKOFF: Those ones with the sores on
44 them, probably ones with the (indiscernible) escapements.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Could be, but I don't think
47 so in this case. So you haven't had any reports from other
48 parts of the State then.

49
50 MR. GOOD: The only other thing, as I

00417

1 say.....

2

3 MR. HAYNES: Come up here and say it.

4

5 REPORTER: Thank you, Terry.

6

7 MR. GOOD: As I recall, the wolf that did
8 come north from the Kenai did, in fact, make it up closer to
9 the Glenallen area and then turned back south on its way, who
10 knows where, before it was finally trapped, but there were
11 trappers that did bring in wolves exhibiting the mange or
12 whatever you want to call it in the Palmer area.

13

14 Fish and Game, as I understand, was working to do
15 something about that. They were concerned about it and it
16 spread northward and they weren't sure what they were going
17 to do. I think they had some kind of a treatment program
18 that they were talking about, wasn't there, on that?

19

20 MR. HAYNES: (Nods affirmatively)

21

22 MR. GOOD: And hopefully -- I know they were
23 hoping to stop it there. But if you're seeing it.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, does this show up
26 basically like mange then, is that what it looks like, is
27 that what the infestation ends up showing up as?

28

29 MR. GOOD: Hair falling out, patches of bare
30 skin.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

33

34 MR. GOOD:that -- that's how it's been
35 described.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, we'll keep our eyes
38 open even more then. Because if -- the ones I saw looked
39 like they had mange.

40

41 MR. GOOD: It would be a really good idea, as
42 you said, for these people to take them into Fish and Game
43 and have them checked out.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I requested that they
46 do that so I hope they do.

47

48 MR. WILLIS: That was all I had for a report
49 on the Kenai, Mr. Chair.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Ida.

2

3 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
4 Committee. In regards to your question on the wolves, on the
5 Western Interior Council meeting, the representative from the
6 Wiseman area said he did get a wolf that didn't have any fur
7 on its neck area.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Can I ask one
10 more question on this subject without being out of line?
11 Does this effect the overall health and survival of the
12 wolves or do they seem to survive, they just don't have good
13 pelts?

14

15 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I'm not a wolf
16 biologist so I'm really am not the best person to ask that
17 question to. But as I recall, there is a concern, obviously
18 about the health of wolves that have the lice infestation or
19 the mange. And that obviously stopping the transplanting of
20 wolves to the Kenai Peninsula is, in part, a response to the
21 fact that that problem exists there and you don't want to
22 facilitate spreading that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

25

26 MR. HAYNES: If you want more detail, we'd
27 have to defer to a biologist.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'll get some from Toby. I
30 was just wondering because we've talked about wolves and
31 their effect on prey populations that directly effect
32 subsistence in this meeting. And if we would have something
33 like this, it's possible that we may have a crash in
34 predators that would then effect the prey in the opposite
35 direction, in the future, you know. That's what I was just
36 thinking, so thank you.

37

38 MR. HAYNES: Uh-huh.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, National Park Service,
41 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

42

43 MR. SHARP: Mr. Chair, members of the
44 Committee, I'm Hunter Sharp representing Wrangell-St. Elias
45 National Park. We have three things to report and I'll keep
46 it brief.

47

48 The Park Service Staff has been conducting interviews
49 at Healy Lake for the purpose of evaluating the request to
50 have Healy Lake included as a resident zone community. We've

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1 also been requested, as you know, to go to Cordova and
2 conduct interviews for the same purpose. That was scheduled
3 for last week and weather kept us out and we'll reschedule
4 that as soon as possible.

5
6 We've passed on to Washington, the proper language to
7 put in Dot Lake, Tetlin, Northway and Tanacross as resident
8 zone communities in the Federal register. That would come,
9 then, out as a draft for comment and we'll continue to press
10 that issue until we see it in the press.

11
12 And that concludes my comments.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any questions.

15
16 MR. SHARP: Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We're not a very questioning
19 bunch at this point.

20
21 MR. F. JOHN: No.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's good to see that
24 progress is being made on those communities that we requested
25 get in there. Denali National Park, Hollis.

26
27 MR. TWITCHELL: I'll try to be equally as
28 brief. Just a couple of items, the Park Staff and the Denali
29 Subsistence Resource Commission has been working this last
30 year on a couple of items. One of them is a user guide which
31 the Commission requested be put together to help local users
32 better understand the Park management subsistence activities.
33 I believe you should all have a copy of this several page
34 user guide. It very soon will be sent out to users. We just
35 have one more review that we're going to do with it prior to
36 its being sent out.

37
38 The other item that we've been working on is a
39 subsistence management plan for the Park area. The
40 Commission's next meeting is August 6th, and they've included
41 only the review of that plan on their agenda so that they can
42 try to get it to the point to where we could bring it forward
43 for public review next winter. So you can expect to be
44 seeing a version of that before the Council.

45
46 The last item was the Commission, recognizing that
47 Gilbert's term on this Council is nearing completion, have
48 written a letter to Mitch, the Chairman of the Board,
49 recommending that Gilbert be reappointed if he's so
50 interested, that we've appreciated the coordination that he

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1 has done between both the Commission and the Council, and we
2 thank him for that.

3
4 Beyond that, if you have any questions regarding the
5 Denali area, I'll try to answer them.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions?

8
9 MR. F. JOHN: How's snowmachining up there?

10
11 MR. TWITCHELL: It's busy. As you're aware
12 the Park initiated a temporary closure of the old Mt.
13 McKinley Park lands this winter. That's a one year closure
14 and the Park is looking at the snowmachining use in the area.
15 There were two corridors within the old Park that remained
16 open for snowmachining travel and that was about a 30 mile
17 loop which goes through an area known as Easy Pass.
18 Essentially the head of Bull River through a low pass system
19 coming out on the Chulitna River. The second route was a
20 route up the Cantwell creek bottom to the Cantwell Glacier.
21 Again, in the proximity of Cantwell.

22
23 The main thing is the closure doesn't effect
24 subsistence users in terms of any snowmachine access to the
25 Park additions. I will say that there has been concerns
26 expressed by the Commission starting as long ago as 1995 when
27 they started questioning the rather increasing density of
28 recreational snowmachining in the Park additions near
29 Cantwell. One of the Commission members stated that there
30 are concerns about furbearers being displaced from the
31 trapline corridors by the increasing recreational travel that
32 occurs there in mid-winter, so that the trapping occurs
33 primarily in the early part of the trapping season but by
34 mid-winter most of the trappers have pulled out because of
35 the -- the wildlife is no longer in the areas where they're
36 trapping and enough density of numbers for them to continue.

37
38 A couple of years before that, Lee Basner from this
39 Commission raised some concerns about ptarmigan nesting in
40 the high country, the Dunkel Hills, in around the Cantwell
41 area, recognizing the decline of ptarmigan generally
42 throughout Unit 13 had some concerns and questions on whether
43 this increased snowmachine activity could be, in any way,
44 effecting the nesting and breeding of the ptarmigan in the
45 area.

46
47 And then the third concern was the wintering habitat
48 in the upper parts of Windy Creek drainage and also in
49 Cantwell Creek drainage which appears to be fairly critical
50 winter habitat for moose being pushed up into that portion of

00421

1 the range by higher snow depositions in Broad Pass.

2

3 So those were the three wildlife related concerns
4 that the Commission has expressed over the years regarding
5 increasing recreational use.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hollis, did I understand
10 correctly, there still is snowmachining in the old Park but
11 it's limited to the corridors?

12

13 MR. TWITCHELL: That's correct.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Okay, at this
16 point in time we're on the Bureau of Land Management,
17 Glennallen Office and Brenda stayed with us for two days but
18 her mother has just been having to go to the hospital so
19 Brenda went with her and so she is not here today. But I
20 think Helga has her report to read into the record.

21

22 MS. EAKON: Well, actually her report is in
23 your book.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It is in the book.

26

27 MS. EAKON: It is part of the administrative
28 record. I know that she wanted to tell you about her
29 experiences as the person who handles permits. But maybe she
30 can do that this fall.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tell her that we'll give her
33 priority. We won't make her sit through the whole meeting if
34 she wants to talk to us this fall. We can even put her on
35 first.

36

37 MS. EAKON: Okay.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That was pretty hard to sit
40 here for two days just to give a report and then not be able
41 to stay through it. And that's with the consent of the rest
42 of the Council, if we put her on first.

43

44 MS. EAKON: Okay.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. USDA Forest Service,
47 Chugach National Forest. Steve.

48

49 MR. ZEMKE: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman
50 and Council. I've got three short points, though actually we

00422

1 could do an exercise that is a minimum of about two hours but
2 I'm not sure I'll.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You might not survive if you
5 try it.

6
7 MR. ZEMKE: I might be subsistence meat for
8 the next winter. There's not much here though so you don't
9 have to worry about that.

10
11 One is -- the first point is on our Tab W, there's a
12 report. We did a King's Bay moose survey this year. It was
13 done previously in 1997 in conjunction with a request from
14 the Council to open up a subsistence moose hunt in the King's
15 Bay area which is in southwestern Prince William Sound.

16
17 In 1997 hunt our survey showed about 20 animals,
18 eight bulls, 10 cows -- or 10 cows and two calves. The
19 flight this year showed approximately the same number, there
20 was 14 adults, though, they couldn't make a differential
21 between bulls and cows. One calf and then there was two sets
22 of tracks that were positively identified, but they couldn't
23 actually find the animal at the end of the tracks, they were
24 in the tree. So it's about 18.

25
26 The thing to think about also that it was a permit
27 system now, one for Chenega Bay and then one for Tatitlek,
28 and there were no permits issued for either one of them this
29 year. I'm sure everybody's been pretty busy this last
30 winter, a lot of things going on with EVOS out in the Sound,
31 so there probably hasn't been the opportunity for those
32 communities to take part.

33
34 The second thing I have is, we've got what is called
35 the schedule of proposed action, it's kind of about an eight
36 page chart basically showing the proposed actions that would
37 occur on the Chugach National Forest, kind of what -- a short
38 description of what they are, where they're at and what the
39 environmental analysis process is -- when it's occurring,
40 where, and then finally kind of a contact person if you have
41 any -- take a look at that chart and if you have any specific
42 concerns there's a contact right there that you'd be able to
43 get in direct contact with the appropriate person.

44
45 The final item I have and this wasn't included in
46 your package, but it's the -- kind of the Chugach Forest Plan
47 revision package we're currently getting close to our
48 alternative development portion of the project. And we're
49 developing right now what we call concept alternatives and
50 going out to all the communities in the area. We visited

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1 Cordova, Whittier, let's see Cooper Landing, Seward,
2 Anchorage, Girdwood, Kenai/Soldotna. Next week we're looking
3 at going out to Tatitlek, the week after that Chenega Bay.
4 And basically we're trying to work with communities to take a
5 look at their interests and then actually trying to define
6 how they would like to see those interests expressed in
7 various zonings that are going to go out on the Forest and
8 develop 22 different prescriptions. And in that package
9 there's just one overwhelming table in there that's got these
10 22 prescriptions down and about 25 activities across that
11 kind of shows, yes, that activity is allowed in that zone,
12 no, it isn't or conditional. There's actually a set of
13 specific standards and guidelines that would kind of describe
14 how that activity could be applied on the ground. And those
15 prescriptions currently haven't been applied anywhere. And
16 that's the alternative development process, would be to take a
17 look at how we apply those prescriptions to various
18 management areas on the Forest.

19
20 Included in your package there, again, is another map
21 showing kind of basic management areas. Generally they're
22 what we call watershed associations, maybe about 20 or 30,000
23 acres total, generally follow a major watershed. And we're
24 trying to apply those, at least on that level, though there
25 are specific concerns where we need to go down below that,
26 then we would go below.

27
28 And I guess what I'm asking now is maybe take a look
29 at that, obviously we don't have time to go through the
30 exercise, if you have specific concerns, give me a call. If
31 you want to go through the exercise, we can do that later on
32 today or if you have a set time, particularly maybe you,
33 Ralph or Clare or Don or Ben, area specific concerns we can
34 be involved that way also.

35
36 So that's the three major points that I had. Are
37 there any questions?

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Steve, just off the top of
40 your head, in these -- in the alternate scoping workshop, how
41 much do you feel applies directly to subsistence?

42
43 MR. ZEMKE: Obviously it varies by
44 communities. Subsistence is one of the major interests and
45 situations we're managing for on the Forest. Obviously,
46 subsistence, taking of fish and wildlife and other wild
47 resources is allowable on every acre of the Forest, there's
48 no restriction on that. ANILCA requires traditional access,
49 including motorized access and we -- all the prescriptions
50 except for two provide for that unilaterally. But there are

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1 two prescriptions, one's called primitive and one's called
2 natural processes where people's interest, they've expressed
3 interest that there maybe should be an area on the Forest
4 that doesn't have motorized use on it.

5
6 And we're looking at, in the alternative development,
7 possibly applying that to some areas on the Forest. We would
8 have to go through an analysis to see whether that would
9 potentially restrict subsistence use on the Forest, and if it
10 does, then we'd have to go through a formal .810 process and
11 have hearings in the effected communities to make sure that
12 people's interests are expressed and they know what the
13 rationale would be if, indeed, we were -- there was a
14 recommendation to restrict access -- motorized access into
15 some areas of the Forest.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically it wouldn't be
18 restricting subsistence, per se, but if, in restricting the
19 motorized access, you effected subsistence then you have to
20 go through another process?

21
22 MR. ZEMKE: Yes, that's correct.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So every acre is available
25 for the collections of meat and plants and fur and things
26 like that?

27
28 MR. ZEMKE: Yes. Currently there are a
29 couple of Forest closures that would close the area for
30 safety reasons such as the Portage Valley, right next to the
31 Visitor Center. There is harvest seasons in there but the
32 methods and means are restricted. There's no high-powered
33 rifles.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

36
37 MR. ZEMKE:you know, shot-guns. You
38 know, rather -- non-long range projected type of system. So
39 there probably would be a few areas like that but they're --
40 they would not -- that portion probably is too specific for
41 the Forest plan and would be dealt with in kind of a specific
42 Forest order. And an example there would be health and
43 safety purposes rather than a general management plan
44 allocation or zoning.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That kind of answers the
47 question that I -- it does answer the question I was getting
48 at. Basically, the National Forest is open for subsistence
49 purposes, even if other closures are there?

50

00425

1 MR. ZEMKE: Yes, that's correct.

2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

4
5 MR. ZEMKE: And for subsistence, it's not
6 only for fish and wildlife, but it's also for taking of
7 plant.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Plants and berries.

10
11 MR. ZEMKE:material, berries, yeah.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Firewood.

14
15 MR. ZEMKE: Firewood, yeah.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

18
19 MR. ZEMKE: Small or free use.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Banu rocks.

22
23 MR. ZEMKE: Yeah. Any other questions?

24
25 MR. KOMPKEOFF: Yeah, I didn't get the bull
26 count or the counts on.....

27
28 MR. ZEMKE: For this year, because it was
29 flown in January, there weren't any -- the animals had
30 actually had dropped their animals and so it was hard to
31 determine whether -- the observer didn't feel confident that
32 he could make a call about whether it was a bull or a cow
33 without the antlers.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically just 14 adults
36 plus two that you figure were there?

37
38 MR. ZEMKE: Adults and it's probably --
39 looking at the previous year, it's probably, you know, 40/60,
40 50/50 somewhere in there. Looking at the total numbers 20
41 versus 18, I would say that's probably non-significant.
42 There's probably -- with those few numbers, probably doesn't
43 really show a downward trend, but it doesn't.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

46
47 MR. ZEMKE: It's a relatively small herd and
48 Don probably knows. It's isolated animals, may come over the
49 top from the Seward area, and that's probably how they got in
50 there. But at the same time there probably isn't a lot of

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1 interchange pretty snowy, hard terrain for the animals to go
2 over one way or the other.

3

4 That was good -- the deer population now in Prince
5 William Sound has been at a very high level the last few
6 years. This winter we've had a lot more snow out there, it
7 will be interesting to see what the populations are going to
8 do through the next summer.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That was one of the next
11 questions I was going to ask you. With the deep snow that
12 we've had, has Forest Service had any indication as to the,
13 you know, as to the impact on the deer or is it too early to
14 speculate?

15

16 MR. ZEMKE: I think it's too early to
17 speculate. The snow levels have been pretty deep and within
18 the last two weeks there's been a significant deepening of
19 the snow pack and yeah, I think we're looking at maybe
20 expanding our pellet group transect data in some of the other
21 areas outside that were traditionally done to try and get a
22 better handle on what the populations are doing. But again,
23 they've been very high in the last three years or so. But I
24 guess it's still a little too early to speculate which way
25 they're going.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does the Forest Service do
28 any spring beach walks or anything like that to check for
29 carcasses?

30

31 MR. ZEMKE: No, we haven't at -- up to this
32 point.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because I know after the
35 deep snow in the '70s I went out there one spring and it
36 seemed like on Hawkins every cove had anywhere from eight to
37 20 skeletons in it. You know, I mean so it'd be pretty easy
38 to get a little bit of an idea as to what kind of a die-off
39 there was just to walk some of those little protected coves
40 and see what you've got laying there.

41

42 MR. ZEMKE: Well, I'll talk with our district
43 staff and see if they can't, you know, move that into their
44 normal program work when they're out there.

45

46 The pellet group transects we do out in the area
47 would just show trend data.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

50

00427

1 MR. ZEMKE: And basically we want to make
2 sure we do those since we do have -- they are long-term
3 historical counts.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Long-term, yeah.

6
7 MR. ZEMKE: Yeah.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions for
10 Steve?

11
12 MR. ZEMKE: Thank you very much.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Okay, Alaska
15 Department of Fish and Game.

16
17 MS. SIMPSON: How are you guys today after
18 your third day? My name is Ellen Simpson and I'm a fisheries
19 biologist here in the Anchorage office. And last fall I came
20 and spoke with you about an update on the 1998 salmon harvest
21 in Southcentral. And today I thought I'd give you just a
22 quick summary of what we expect for 1999 in salmon harvest.

23
24 Every winter our research biologists are busy pulling
25 together whatever information they have and it's different
26 for every stock of fish. Some fish populations we have a lot
27 of information about, others are -- the information is hard
28 to get or we're restrained by budgets, so they do the best
29 job they can on making an estimate of what to expect for the
30 next year. And the reason they do this is really two-fold.

31
32 One is to inform the public and the processors about
33 what harvest they can expect from the various areas of the
34 state. And the other reason is, they give our fisheries
35 managers some additional tools to work with, what they can
36 expect and how -- some strategies that they can use to manage
37 the commercial fishery to ensure that there's enough fish
38 that reach the river for the in-river users and the natural
39 escapement that we're mandated to provide.

40
41 So the following are mid-point estimates and like I
42 said they've been derived from various sources. So they, you
43 know, it runs the gambit from really detailed historical
44 information to just a 10 year harvest -- average harvest.

45
46 In Upper Cook Inlet this year they're expecting about
47 a three and a half million return of salmon, of sockeye
48 salmon which should provide for a commercial or a common
49 property harvest of about two million, and this is the fifth
50 lowest in the last 20 years. And about the half -- if this

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1 comes true, it will be about half of the average catch in the
2 last 10 years.

3
4 Upper Cook Inlet chinook, the early Kenai return,
5 they're looking at something between nine and 15,000. And if
6 it comes in closer to the 9,000 level, they're expecting that
7 it will be real similar to last year and there'll be
8 restrictions on the sport fishery.

9
10 The late return of Kenai kings, they're looking at
11 something between 35 and 50,000, which is in the range of
12 last year.

13
14 Lower Cook Inlet just provides harvest estimates for
15 their fisheries. And they have a -- most of their returns
16 are hatchery reared fish, and they're looking at a return of
17 3.4 million pink salmon, of which three million of those will
18 return to the Tudka Hatchery, 400,000 sockeye and over
19 300,000 of those are enhanced fish returning to their stock
20 lakes program, Leisure Lake, Kirschner.

21
22 In Prince William Sound, they're expecting an
23 excellent pink return of about 32.7 million fish. And of
24 that, over six and a half million are going to be wild, which
25 is small in comparison to the total, but actually
26 historically if you look back on it it's not bad. It's
27 actually a pretty good return for the wild fish. Some of
28 that will be taken for cost recovery for the hatcheries. And
29 they're looking at a common property harvest of 19.6 million,
30 which is a good -- a good commercial harvest, and it would be
31 the fourth largest -- if it materializes, it would be the
32 fourth largest hatchery return on record of pink salmon.

33
34 Chums in Prince William Sound are, they're expecting
35 about 3.34 million. And the common property harvest should
36 be close to 2.4 million. And that would be an excellent
37 hatchery return of chums as well.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is that hatchery chums?

40
41 MS. SIMPSON: Most of those are hatchery,
42 yeah. 2.73 million would be hatchery. It would be the larg
43 -- if that materializes, it would be the largest return ever
44 of the hatchery fish.

45
46 Hoghill Lake has improved. Recent escapements have
47 improved over the 1980s and the early 1990s and they're
48 expecting 72,800 fish. The escapement goal is 25,000 so
49 there's a harvestable surplus there which will actually work
50 in quite well with the large chum return since they're timed

00429

1 about the same.

2

3 Eshamy Lake, sockeye. We're -- the estimate is for
4 38,000. With an escapement goal of 40,000 there doesn't look
5 to be any harvestable surplus of Eshamy sockeye.

6

7 Main Bay Hatchery is expecting three different timed
8 sockeye returns. 8.6,000 early return, 19.6,000 mid return
9 and 111,000 late returning sockeye. When these were being
10 reared, they had some pipeline water failure problems, so
11 their returns are down for this year.

12

13 The Copper River sockeye is looking at a pretty good
14 year again this year with the forecast for almost one and a
15 half million wild sockeye and about 700,000 hatchery produced
16 sockeye from the Gulkana Hatchery for a total return of 2.22
17 million sockeye. And the common property fishery is expected
18 to take about a million and a half of those.

19

20 And I have the state wide forecast and harvest
21 projections if you'd like to see how the Central region fits
22 into the state as a whole. It's the short version.

23

24 Does anyone have any questions? Ralph.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I had something before but I
27 don't see it in my notes here. Oh, on the Upper Cook Inlet
28 you gave us, the first one, was about half of the 10 year
29 average, you don't have on the rest of these how they fit in
30 on the average, do you?

31

32 MS. SIMPSON: No, I don't. I tried to give
33 you an idea of how they fit into the scheme of things, either
34 the largest return or something.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

37

38 MS. SIMPSON: No, I don't.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I thought that was a pretty
41 handy -- a pretty easy to assimilate piece of information.

42

43 MS. SIMPSON: Yeah.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It kind of puts things in a
46 good perspective to say that, you know, this is half the 10
47 year average or.....

48

49 MS. SIMPSON: Yeah.

50

00430

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: this is the 10 year
2 average or this is below the 10 year average. It's actually
3 easier to understand than the fact that 9. -- nine to 15,000
4 chinooks.

5
6 MS. SIMPSON: Yeah.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So is that average, is that
9 below average, is that above average, that kind of thing.

10
11 MS. SIMPSON: Yeah. The Upper Cook Inlet
12 chinook is about the same as last year.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. And that's below
15 average, isn't it?

16
17 MS. SIMPSON: They're making their escapement
18 so I don't know.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If they're making their
21 escapement, but there's no surplus then it must be in the
22 long-run be slightly below average or be below average
23 somehow or another?

24
25 MS. SIMPSON: Yeah, the way I understood it
26 is if it came in -- if the run materialized at the lower end
27 of that range, they would have to have some restrictions on
28 the fishery.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

31
32 MS. SIMPSON: If it came in at the upper
33 level of that range, the sport fishery would carry on as
34 planned. So -- and they'd still, under each of those
35 scenarios they'd still be able to achieve their escapement.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Question, Fred.

38
39 MR. F. JOHN: Do you know about the Copper
40 River salmon?

41
42 MS. SIMPSON: A little bit. Tom knows for
43 sure.

44
45 MR. F. JOHN: I brought this up last year or
46 at the last meeting, but I just want to bring it up again
47 because it's a concern to me.

48
49 I think last -- when was this.....
50

00431

1 MS. SIMPSON: Last September of.....

2

3 MR. F. JOHN: I think this summer -- last
4 summer when -- you know, up in like Sanona Creek and up
5 there, Chistochina, Indian River, and different little --
6 them little tributary on the upper Ahtna area, that's the
7 only one I know about right now -- a little further down in
8 the Copper Center area, all the streams dried up, even
9 Batzulnetas Creed dried up and the salmon that goes up to
10 spawn up there, they all kind of died at the mouth of the
11 creek. And I was wondering how, I mean I hope -- hoping the
12 State knows about it, you know, but I was wondering -- I mean
13 down the road what the impact would be on those salmon that
14 died?

15

16 MR. TAUBE: I can try.

17

18 MS. SIMPSON: Yeah. This is an.....

19

20 MR. TAUBE: I'm Tom Taube, I'm the area sport
21 fish biologist for the Glennallen area. I remember in
22 September you had asked that when I was here.

23

24 MR. F. JOHN: Uh-huh, oh, okay.

25

26 MR. TAUBE: And I'd flown Sanona Creek and
27 there was about 100 dead kings in there. I mean with the
28 king salmon you have about a four year return from one brood
29 year. And you know, so the overall effect wouldn't be as
30 great as, say the salmon that would return only in one or two
31 years over time. So unless you have, say, two or three years
32 where these streams are low and these fish can't come back to
33 spawn then you could actually see that stock disappear. Or
34 if it was a long-term -- I know with Sanona Creek the problem
35 was the beaver dams and they're still there. I mean there's
36 a large number.

37

38 But you know.....

39

40 MR. F. JOHN: What, was it beaver dams at
41 Sanona Creek that.....

42

43 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. Yeah, and low water
44 levels. You know, the Copper Basin has seen a drought here
45 now for probably the last five years. I mean we haven't had
46 real high snow levels and we haven't had a real wet -- last
47 summer was probably the wettest summer we've seen there in
48 several years. So if water levels do come back, you know,
49 expect those fish would be able to make it up above the
50 beaver dams and spawn. It's just more the environmental

00432

1 conditions.

2

3 MR. F. JOHN: Could you blow it up?

4

5 MR. TAUBE: Well, we have been approached by
6 the Chistochina Village Council to do that, and I directed
7 that to Habitat Division in Anchorage. And generally they
8 don't like to issue permits to blow up dams. And by the time
9 it was brought to our attention there was only -- I only had
10 seen like less than a half dozen king salmon left and if we
11 would have blown the dam, that water could have come out and
12 probably washed them back into the Copper and they might not
13 have had the strength to make it back up.

14

15 I guess it's something that we'll need to observe
16 this summer and see if it's going to occur. What they prefer
17 to do is basically, you know, mechanically remove the dams.

18

19 But those lower 10 miles of Sanona Creek, I mean I
20 counted 30 dams and so it's not just -- I mean the first mile
21 there's three, so it's just -- there's a lot of old dams and
22 new dams.

23

24 MR. F. JOHN: Wow.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You got a question, and I
27 got a question after it.

28

29 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah. At Batzulnetas Creek,
30 too, just at the mouth there's a dam there and we could see
31 the fish, you know, just circling there, you know. And there
32 was hardly any water in there last summer when we had our
33 cultural camp there.

34

35 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

36

37 MR. F. JOHN: And we're concerned about that,
38 that's our old village.

39

40 MR. TAUBE: Right.

41

42 MR. F. JOHN: Our village in Batzulnetas and
43 we don't want to lose the fish there, I mean it's pretty well
44 known. And we kind of wish we could get rid of the dam some
45 way, too.

46

47 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

48

49 MR. F. JOHN: And before -- another one I
50 see, this is just in history, up the Slana River where the

00433

1 salmon used to go in to the Bone Creek, and because of the
2 dam -- beaver dam and everything, all the way up there, when
3 I was growing up, there's no more king salmon go up that
4 creek anymore. And you know, that's why I'm really concerned
5 about these -- the problem there.

6
7 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. A lot of those smaller
8 streams like Sanona and Bone Creek, they're pretty small
9 stocks to begin with and so like I said, if you have several
10 years of -- where those fish can't go up and spawn,
11 essentially you'll lose that population. And that's
12 something that, you know, with beavers, you can pull a dam
13 but if you don't remove the beavers, themselves, they're
14 going to come back and put the dam in there. I mean it's
15 just -- I mean that probably goes more with fur prices than
16 anything else.

17
18 Regarding Batzulnetas, I know at Tanada Creek, the
19 Park Service had the weir there this year and the water did
20 come up and those sockeyes did come in. I believe they
21 counted around 30,000 fish passed the weir, and there was
22 just a few hundred that had remained below the dam there. So
23 it's the last two strong -- years of strong sockeye returns,
24 it sounds like that's -- the Tanada Creek has had some pretty
25 strong returns. I think it was 20,000 in '97 and then 30
26 some thousand in '98 they had counted.

27
28 MR. F. JOHN: That's all I got, thank you.

29
30 MR. TAUBE: Okay.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: While we're talking about
33 beaver dams and king salmon. Beaver dams kind of change the
34 character of the stream also, don't they, in a way that's not
35 conducive to king salmon spawning? I mean beaver dams turn
36 it into slow water and stagnant bottoms or mud bottoms and
37 king salmon spawn better in riffles and gravel and fast
38 moving water, don't they?

39
40 MR. TAUBE: Yes.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So actually the whole
43 character of the streams are changing?

44
45 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. Yeah, you know,
46 particularly with Sanona Creek. I mean the lower stretch
47 there, you only have about maybe a mile and a half before you
48 hit the first dam. And I'm not sure whether in normal water
49 if that's where those kings spawn, I'm not sure where they
50 spawn in Sanona Creek or if they go above the dams and spawn

00434

1 further up stream.

2

3 There's some distance between some of the dams but
4 there are some others that are just stacked on top of each
5 other. But we see on some of the other spawning streams,
6 like the Little Tonzina River, there are some dams there that
7 the kings go above and then there's some riffle area above
8 the dam.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

11

12 MR. TAUBE:so then you go above the
13 upper reaches.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That was the next question I
16 was going to ask you. Are these fish trying to get through
17 all of the dams to be in water that's more conducive to
18 spawning above them or have the dams displaced the
19 traditional spawning area?

20

21 MR. TAUBE: That would probably depend on the
22 individual stream, you know, where the dam was built and if
23 there was -- where the dam was built was where the original
24 spawning area occurred, then they may be trying to go beyond
25 to look for more suitable spawning areas. But if they find
26 suitable spawning areas below the dam they could spawn there.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So in a way actually what we
29 need more than anything else, rather than blowing dams, is we
30 need high enough fur prices to -- so subsistence trappers
31 would go up there and trap those beavers so they'd quit
32 building the dams?

33

34 MR. TAUBE: Right. I know they've looked at
35 some of this up in Northwest Alaska on the Selawik River.
36 They've tried to have some type of beaver processing where
37 they process beaver meat.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

40

41 MR. TAUBE: And I don't know if that -- I
42 believe that's more regarding white fish populations than
43 salmon.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I was thinking that one of
46 the things that could be done because I do know that the
47 Ahtna people do use beaver, and one of the ways that we could
48 address it as a Subsistence Council, would be to promote a 22
49 season for beaver instead of a trapping season. Because that
50 way those beaver could be taken in the summer time for meat

00435

1 or in the early fall where there aren't enough people around
2 up there and the incentive isn't up there to trap -- you
3 know, to chop through.....

4
5 MR. TAUBE: Right.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:you know, 30 inches of
8 ice to try to set a snare for a beaver where it's much more
9 simple to take one with a rifle.

10
11 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. Yeah, we've had some
12 problems right around Glennallen with Moose Creek and some of
13 the lakes that we have stock lakes where beaver are blocking
14 off our runoff and cause escaping of stock fish or prevent
15 grayling from migrating up stream, and we try to direct
16 trappers to those smaller dams. But like I said, the Sanona,
17 I mean there's pretty substantial activity there. But I
18 think if you could eliminate the beaver and then potentially
19 try to work something out where you get some of those dams
20 out so we could get the flow going again, you'd probably
21 improve some habitat there.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: One last question, do you
24 have coho salmon going that far up?

25
26 MR. TAUBE: I believe above Gulkana there's a
27 few reported catches of cohos in the fish wheels but we don't
28 have many documented. Mostly coho go up the Chistochina
29 drainage and about as far north as we have any harvest of any
30 coho by the sport fisheries in Tonzina, the Little Tonzina.

31
32 I've heard reports of a few coho showing up in the
33 Klutina but as the Gulkana, there are no known coho that go
34 up there.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I was just thinking from a
37 natural standpoint as the system becomes less desirable for
38 chinook it become more desirable for coho.

39
40 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. You may see some
41 expansion.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, and the other question
44 that I was going to ask you is I realize that chinook come
45 back over a longer time period so if you miss a year you end
46 up not missing that whole genetic run because they're coming
47 back, up there, probably five, six and seven year fish, don't
48 they?

49
50 MR. TAUBE: Right. And even four year fish.

00436

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And even four year fish.
2 Where if they do miss enough years, how long -- I mean we
3 have pioneering up there yet for fish, too. I mean basically
4 if the habitat becomes suitable for chinook and there's
5 chinook in the area, gradually you'll build a run back up in
6 those same habitat, won't you?

7
8 MR. TAUBE: Yeah, you could see some
9 pioneering in those streams up there, you know,
10 reestablished.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. So I wonder, over
13 time, how many times this has happened?

14
15 MR. TAUBE: Yeah, it'd be -- I mean I'm sure
16 there was -- you know, the level of beaver harvest probably
17 wasn't as great. I don't know what the conditions are that
18 -- you know, if it's the lack of trapping that causes beaver
19 numbers or if it's, you know, just a cycle.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, we're probably at the
22 lowest beaver harvest in 100 years right now.

23
24 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I mean beaver have been
27 worth -- a hundred years ago beaver were worth a lot more
28 than they're worth now, 50/60 years ago they were worth a lot
29 more than they're worth now, I mean in real dollars, and even
30 20 years ago they were worth a lot more than they're worth
31 now. So the last 20 years, has probably seen the lowest
32 prices in beaver, probably going back for two centuries.

33
34 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So I mean you go back and
37 you look at the early regulations of the territory and they
38 had to have real short small beaver seasons because there
39 just weren't a lot of them around because they were worth so
40 much. So what's needed to happen is either they become worth
41 something one way or the other or again, like I said, if the
42 people would use them for food then we could maybe take them
43 down that way. But beaver populations in the Interior are
44 high, aren't they?

45
46 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah. I've seen more beaver in
47 my lifetime than -- they're all over the place.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

50

00437

1 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So.....

4
5 MR. TAUBE: Yeah, basically we don't have a
6 beaver removal program under the fisheries section.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No.

9
10 MR. TAUBE: And even dam removal, it's hard
11 to get our staff to go out -- and we don't have the staff to
12 go out there and pull the dams out. And so if there's -- the
13 local people can go out and do that and with the beaver
14 removed, that's to the benefit of their stock return.

15
16 MR. F. JOHN: I think that.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You don't even have a stream
19 improvement program to clear the brush out and protect it.

20
21 MR. F. JOHN: Down Batzulnetas Creek there --
22 or what we call the Batzulnetas Creek, we go down there and
23 try to open it up.

24
25 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. Well, it sounds like that
26 one below where the weir was was partially open, the fish
27 were getting around it this year.

28
29 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ellen, you didn't give a
32 prediction for either chinook for coho up the Copper, or do
33 you just not have one?

34
35 MS. SIMPSON: Well, those are by -- I
36 wondered if you were going to catch that. Those are
37 average.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Those are just averages?

40
41 MS. SIMPSON:averages for the past.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Rolling averages?

44
45 MS. SIMPSON: For the past 10 years, yeah.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

48
49 MS. SIMPSON: And this year the harvest
50 estimate for chinook is 53,000 and coho is 304,000.

00438

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Out of curiosity, do you
2 have the escapement on chinook for this year? Was there
3 adequate escapement in the Copper Basin?

4
5 MS. SIMPSON: I think there was, yeah.

6
7 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. We have an escapement
8 objective of 3,000 chinook for the Upper Copper and I believe
9 we were at around 3,800 was what we had counted -- from our
10 index -- aerial survey index streams.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other questions?
13 Did you have a report, too?

14
15 MR. TAUBE: Yeah, I have a small report. I
16 believe I already introduced myself.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

19
20 MR. TAUBE: If I could just refer you to Tab
21 W, the final report in there. I just had submitted a summary
22 of the 1998 subsistence and personal use fisheries. And
23 basically what I had done was separated the harvest from 1998
24 between the two fisheries and with five averages and 10 year
25 averages shown and then broke it down by the permits issued
26 by area.

27
28 This basically is a summary of what I had presented
29 in September so I won't go into a whole lot of detail. In
30 both fisheries we're seeing increase over the past 10 years
31 of participation and in harvest also. With the personal use
32 fishery it's probably somewhat an artifact and the strong
33 sockeye runs. The allocation, based on the Copper River
34 Salmon Management Plan is 100,000 for the personal use
35 fishery and it's a three year average for the subsistence
36 fishery which is around 70,000.

37
38 What you're looking at with the personal use
39 fisheries, you got large number, the escapement goal for the
40 Copper River is around 600,000 fish. In the past years, I
41 believe in '97 it was approximately 1.1 million is what.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Escapement?

44
45 MR. TAUBE:escapement of sockeye or
46 salmon had been. And in 1998 it was around 800 to 900,000,
47 so some of that surplus above that 600,000 is taken by the
48 fisheries. And the personal use fishery was allowed two
49 openings where we permitted additional fish above the 30 fish
50 or 15 fish limit to be taken.

00439

1 So with the increase of participation in the personal
2 use fishery you can see, you know, the surplus fish being --
3 the fishing power of that fishery is stronger and will take
4 more fish as opposed to where the subsistence fishery,
5 there's only so many fish wheels out there and so many people
6 dipnetting even though we've seen an increase in the number
7 of dipnetters that are participating in the subsistence
8 fishery.

9
10 You can see the shift in the subsistence fishery also
11 where we have a quarter of the participants are from the
12 Anchorage area in the subsistence fishery.

13
14 Basically this coming year kind of in line with what
15 Ellen had talked about, you know, we expect that, you know,
16 the participation will probably remain the same or increase
17 in both fisheries. This was the second highest number of
18 subsistence permits issued. In 1997 there was 1,131 issued
19 and this year we saw slightly over a thousand. I expect
20 we'll probably see about that many again, probably around
21 1,100.

22
23 The personal use fishery it's been increasing every
24 year for the last three years. It could go as high as 11,000
25 this year, potentially. A lot depends upon what's going on,
26 say in the Kenai personal use fishery or the Cook Inlet
27 fishery. We see some people get personal use permits from
28 both, for both Cook Inlet and the Copper River and so they'll
29 participate in both personal use fisheries.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you feel the increased
32 cost of the personal use permits that I think, due to the
33 trespass fee by Chitina will have any effect on the amount of
34 personal use permits that are issued?

35
36 MR. TAUBE: It'd probably be minimal. Right
37 now we're working on the contract negotiations. I believe
38 it's about double, \$20 per permit. And I think you may see a
39 few people back off of that. But it's just an easy way for
40 people to get fish in their freezer.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's still minimal.

43
44 MR. TAUBE: It's pretty reasonable, yeah.

45
46 MS. SWAN: Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Clare.

49
50 MS. SWAN: I have a question about personal

00440

1 use fishery. The Kenai, is there any way that -- you have to
2 be a resident?

3
4 MR. TAUBE: Yes.

5
6 MS. SWAN: And we all know that is not
7 enforced, it just seems unenforceable. I -- there was -- I
8 live right on the river, close to the river, I don't fish all
9 the time but I see people come in and I know that, at least,
10 three instances where people who were obviously not from this
11 country even, had three and four coolers loaded, they had
12 brand new Eddie Bauer gear wanting to dip fish in people's
13 private yards. And they were just there. And there was
14 nothing done about it either because people called. One man
15 came and wanted to know if my husband had a pick up truck so
16 he could help him get his fish. And he had -- I said, where
17 did you get those and he said, I dipped -- I dipped, he was
18 bowing, telling me he dipped, and nothing happened.

19
20 The number that we were given for just the Kenai
21 River was 154,000 -- 156,000. And I -- you know, that makes
22 it -- especially when you have no subsistence, it's not --
23 that isn't -- you can't do that because you're going to wreck
24 everybody's quality of life, so then -- so you just -- they
25 talk about things being decisive, and it is not managed. It
26 isn't. There is nothing done about enforcement, very little.
27 You see it in the paper that somebody really got it socked to
28 them, you know, but I know that from what is reported and
29 what is seen, and we find fish buried in the sand dunes, and
30 something should -- I mean if we're going to do all that --
31 if that's going to be allowed, then it needs to be -- it
32 needs to be cleared up. Because you know, there's this
33 perception that if we have subsistence we'll have -- all
34 these people will come down and swoop on the -- and they'll
35 just -- I don't know what they'll, something -- Attila Hun
36 but personal use fishery -- I mean it all adds up. It all
37 comes -- no matter what you call it, it has the bottom line
38 and I -- I do wish that something about enforcement could be
39 done.

40
41 And it just seems like it's always about money. At
42 least that would make sense, you know, it would make sense.
43 It makes no sense now at all.

44
45 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. A lot of the enforcement,
46 the reason why there isn't as much enforcement is a money --
47 budget issue.

48
49 MS. SWAN: Yeah.

50

00441

1 MR. TAUBE: And you know, we're seeing our
2 budgets being cut more and more. You know, we have the same
3 problem on the Copper River where -- however, at the Copper
4 River we do issue permits on-site. The Cook Inlet ones, I
5 believe are issued through the mail, and so we need to
6 examine the people's hunting license -- hunting and fishing
7 license and they have to have a resident license in order for
8 us to issue them a permit.

9
10 So in that sense, I think we're able to regulate it a
11 little bit more than Cook Inlet. But they still need -- I
12 believe for the Cook Inlet one they need to submit their
13 license number when they request their permit.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think what she's talking
16 about is isn't the issue of the people with the permits, it's
17 the issue of the fact that there are people who just see the
18 fishery taking place and.....

19
20 MS. SWAN: And they just fish.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:they just automatically
23 fish. They don't bother to get a permit. And you know, I
24 think that's fairly common.

25
26 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because there's no
29 enforcement to make sure there's any -- even if there's any
30 permit a lot of times.

31
32 MS. SWAN: That's true.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So I mean.....

35
36 MS. SWAN: It gets very bizarre. And it's
37 really -- and people -- I'm surprised that the local people
38 behave as well as they do sometimes because it becomes --
39 it's really hard to deal with sometimes. You know, you --
40 because you know what's going down and you also know what
41 isn't, what's going to happen and then you -- you get all
42 this testimony which means nothing. People say, well, we --
43 they have enforcement and they don't have it, not as much as
44 they need. And there's a great deal of wanton waste that
45 does on.

46
47 And then it's all dumped on the -- the subsistence
48 issue is -- people will stand up and yell and scream bout
49 that, well, we can't have that but we can have all this other
50 stuff. You know, it just depends on what we call it. You

00442

1 know, so I mean you could call it chocolate fishing, it's the
2 same thing.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think what she's
5 expressing is frustration.....

6
7 MS. SWAN: Right.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:that probably you guys
10 share just as much as we share. But the problem is that,
11 alone, that illegal fishery would probably satisfy all of the
12 subsistence needs of the fish leftover. And I think it's a
13 lot bigger problem than most people realize.

14
15 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. Well, we do see that even
16 on the Copper River, people without permits. I think ours is
17 a little bit easier to enforce because there's only one road
18 into Chitina and we've had several people that have been
19 reported by other dipnetters that they've taken over limits
20 and our local enforcement officer has been able to pick them
21 up before they even get to Glennallen on the road.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I hope you guys monitor your
24 cell phone because as people get more cell phones it's going
25 to be a lot -- you should have big signs down there with an
26 800 number for people to call.

27
28 MR. KOMPCKOFF: Last year I was fishing in
29 Chitina and the guys had these big totes, you know, plumb
30 full of fish and they asked me if I could help carry them up
31 and I said, sure, if you give me some of the heads, you know.
32 And -- but I seen at least two or three totes come up from
33 the skiff there, you know, and then they just put them right
34 in their car and they just take right off and there was
35 nobody there to check them. And I'd say there was at least
36 four or five kings in one tote there, one of those long
37 totes, about six foot long. It took three guys to carry it,
38 help carry it into the car. And here I am up there trying
39 to catch one.

40
41 MR. TAUBE: Yeah, each permit holder can take
42 up to four kings in the Copper River personal use fishery.

43
44 MR. ROMIG: I really think it's a -- you
45 know, if something's against the law it's against the law.
46 And it's, you know, it's an enforcement issue but also I
47 think it, you know, comes down to morales or whatever. You
48 know if people want to be criminals, I don't think there's
49 anything you can really do much about it.

50

00443

1 It's a lot easier to be a criminal, in the back woods
2 of Alaska than it is, you know, down the main street of
3 Anchorage. So I think that's what we're seeing. But I think
4 over time, I think that with a little bit of education and
5 you know, maybe some more easy accessible numbers, you know,
6 to report people, I think we can eliminate a lot of the
7 problem that we're talking about now.

8
9 I think, you know, like I said if a person wants to,
10 you know, be a criminal, you know, there's nothing you can
11 do. And I think -- but if you make the person feel like he's
12 a real criminal when he does it, I think that's a different
13 thing. You know, it's kind of a -- it's a judgment you know,
14 it's a -- I think if you're going to take four people out in
15 a situation and three of them take a little bit more than
16 they're supposed to, you know, the one that takes the right
17 amount, you know, he feels pretty good about it, you know.
18 And I think over time, I don't think it will become as big a
19 problem, you know, I think it will be.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I hope you're right, Ben.
22 Do you have anything more?

23
24 MR. TAUBE: The only thing I'd like to do is
25 introduce our new regional supervisor for the Arctic Yukon-
26 Kuskokwim area -- he left. Well, then I won't introduce him
27 but it's Mack Menard and he was sitting here briefly.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. He's the.....

30
31 MR. TAUBE: The regional supervisor for the
32 Arctic Yukon-Kuskokwim region which includes the Upper Copper
33 River Basin, and he came on last June for our area.

34
35 MR. KOMPKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Don.

38
39 MR. KOMPKOFF: Yeah, I just have one more
40 about this thing about up in the Copper, you know. You have
41 a permit you can get up to 500 fish up there and you fill out
42 this little paper at this little trailer, go up there and get
43 a permit and then you sign it and they put 500 fish on there,
44 you know. And then you go in and dipnet, I come out with 10
45 and nobody's there to check or anything, you know, I could
46 have 510.

47
48 MR. ROMIG: I think what happened to me last
49 year on the Kasilof, basically I was -- it was 35 fish, you
50 know, and of course, I wanted more. It seems like, you know,

00444

1 when it's that easy of fishing you just want to keep getting
2 more naturally. But the person that I was with made me feel
3 guilty enough to stop at 35.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I think as sport
6 fishing biologists, you all must realize that problem extends
7 to sport fish just as much as it extends to personal use and
8 subsistence fish. I think I've probably seen as many
9 violations in that area with people getting a limit, taking
10 them home and coming back for another limit.

11
12 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: As in any other area.

15
16 MS. SWAN: Well, that's what it makes it, you
17 know, just compounds the problem. And I think, also that if
18 you're going to -- when they deliberate on these things, all
19 of this has to be considered in knowing, I mean about what
20 actually happened.

21
22 It just seems to me sometimes like a whole group of
23 churches and groups, you know, and the church is burning down
24 and they're all going, well, what does our custom say about
25 when the church catches on fire and everybody's praying and
26 they're doing all this stuff and the secretary goes out and
27 gets the fire hose and puts out the fire. You know, that's
28 what we do. We just perpetuate our own problems because we
29 don't consider -- we don't consider everything that's going
30 down. We only listen to part of it. We say -- some people
31 say, well, this isn't important because I say it's not. So
32 -- but we must all be treated equally fairly and with -- you
33 know, and so if you tell them, you say, well, this is what's
34 happening with subsistence, then they look at you and they
35 say, oh, yeah, well, they're pushed into a corner because
36 they don't listen. They say, well, we just don't like that
37 law. So it becomes -- so then you have to take all that bag
38 of stuff and put it over here so you can go get some -- at
39 least get some work done, you know.

40
41 But I see that happening, particularly on the Kenai
42 because I live there. And we talk a lot about something that
43 everyone says isn't there and that's subsistence. We fight
44 about it.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anything else to give us in
47 your report?

48
49 MR. TAUBE: No.

50

00445

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Nat, something to add to
2 theirs.

3
4 MR. GOOD: Could I ask a question?

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, you may ask a question.

7
8 MR. GOOD: The gear that's being used on the
9 Kenai and the Copper River, we used to see the cummings
10 dipnet, you know, with the heavy mesh and everything. But
11 now the past few years there have been people coming in with
12 four foot by four foot openings and utilizing gillnet instead
13 of using the old style dipnets, and that's tremendously more
14 effective. And I just really question whether or not there
15 should be some additional gear limitations on the personal
16 use fisheries, if it's legal for them to do this.

17
18 MR. TAUBE: The current regulations for gear
19 on the personal use there, they can use up to a five foot
20 diameter net and there's a mesh size restriction. But you
21 know, whether it's gillnet or regular net, I have seen some
22 people out there with the gillnet material. I guess, you
23 know, part of it's -- there's only so big a net you can hold
24 in the current but the fish still have to be there to swim
25 into it.

26
27 MR. GOOD: But if it's gillnet, it's a whole
28 lot easier to hold than the heavy stuff, believe me.

29
30 MR. TAUBE: Right, yeah.

31
32 MR. GOOD: And you can catch them regardless
33 of which way the bag is going.

34
35 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

38
39 MR. KOMPCKOFF: The net is five foot by five?

40
41 MR. TAUBE: Five foot diameter so five foot
42 by five foot. And there's no length restriction for the
43 length of the pole that holds it. There's people up by the
44 bridge just down to the bridge, there's 30 foot poles on
45 their net and sweep it.

46
47 MS. SWAN: Geez.

48
49 MR. TAUBE: So there's some technique there.

50

00446

1 MS. SWAN: Trusting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can I ask you one question?

4

5 MR. TAUBE: Yes.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What's the fatality rate in
8 that fishery?

9

10 MR. TAUBE: Well, the reported rates, we do
11 get some -- occasionally some people fall in and drown.
12 Several years ago there was, I think three of four people
13 that drowned when they had had a boat on there and they tried
14 to tie off to a rock or a log and it sunk.

15

16 Occasionally we do get some -- two years ago a man
17 died having a heart attack while hauling his fish back up. I
18 don't know if it's every year, but you know, probably so --
19 every couple of years we do see some people die down there.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It scares the liver out of
22 me when I know that river and see these people standing in
23 water up to here.....

24

25 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:sweeping a net through.
28 Chest waders.

29

30 MR. F. JOHN: Shoes that big.

31

32 MR. TAUBE: We recommend that people wear
33 life preservers and tie off to the rocks. And that's about
34 as far as we can go. I mean you can't dictate common sense.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: To me it's just amazing that
37 there's not, you know, a big fatality rate every year just
38 because.....

39

40 MR. KOMPKOFF: For sure, I've seen it before,
41 those guys, there's four or five in one boat and just barely
42 enough water -- daring.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anyhow, I guess that doesn't
45 enter into our discussion but thank you for your report.

46

47 MR. TAUBE: I guess I have one thing to add
48 on to Nat Good's question. That gear restriction can be
49 changed by the Board of Fishery proposal if you would want to
50 submit something, and for the Copper River, it will be

00447

1 addressed in 1999, and the deadline is April 9 for proposals.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And there are no
4 restrictions on boat fishing there are there?

5

6 MR. TAUBE: None yet.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No. Are there any
9 recommendations from Fish and Game or anything off in that
10 direction?

11

12 MR. TAUBE: Well, what I'm hoping to do this
13 year with the personal use permit is add a column so we can
14 get information on what level of participation is from boats,
15 you know, put down when each person when they record -- with
16 the personal use fishery they're supposed to turn in their
17 permit after each trip and put a section to mark either shore
18 or boat so we can get a handle on, you know, how many
19 participants are fishing from a boat and maybe their
20 effectiveness. Because there is some concern regarding that
21 particularly the kings.

22

23 You know, we don't have the actual data to say that
24 boat fishermen are more effective in catching kings than
25 shore fishermen, but just the nature of king salmon where
26 they're in the middle of the river in the water column as
27 opposed to sockeye, they're bank oriented, would lead you to
28 believe that, you know, folks in boats are more likely to get
29 their limit of kings than those from shore.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We almost need three
32 categories, those that are transported by boats, those that
33 fish out of boats, and those that just fish by shore access.

34

35 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. The transport people,
36 they'd also be fishing from shore though so.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, that's -- yeah. Thank
39 you muchly, if there's no further questions.

40

41 MR. F. JOHN: Can I.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred's got one.

44

45 MR. F. JOHN: I never got your name really.

46

47 MR. TAUBE: Tom Taube.

48

49 MR. F. JOHN: Okay, thank you.

50

00448

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Alaska Department of Fish
2 and Game.

3
4 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the
5 Department of Fish and Game, I want to thank you for the
6 opportunity we have had to participate in this meeting. It's
7 as much a learning experience as it is, hopefully beneficial
8 to you to have input from our Staff and to hear our positions
9 on proposals and to get background information from our
10 biologists.

11
12 I'm real impressed with the deliberations, you all
13 have invested a lot of time energy in at this meeting. It
14 shows you have a lot of concern for the issues in your area.
15 We learn a lot by listening to your discussion, it benefits
16 us and we can take this back and pass it on to other staff.

17
18 I also wanted to mention that Jim Fall normally would
19 be here representing the Subsistence Division, but he's been
20 preoccupied with Board of Fisheries meetings this week as
21 well as the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Conference here in town,
22 but he sends his best to you, and hopefully he'll be able to
23 attend your next meeting.

24
25 So again, thank you very much. We appreciate the
26 opportunity to take part and wish you well.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you for taking part in
29 it. Okay, with that, I think we're done with all of our
30 reports if I remember right.

31
32 MS. EAKON: Yes.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And we're on to any other
35 new business. Do I hear any other new business?

36
37 MR. F. JOHN: None.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, let's go on to
40 time and place of the next public meeting.

41
42 MS. EAKON: I handed out the fall calendar
43 for the Regional Council meetings. And the blackout dates
44 are September 28 and 29, that's because Rachel and Robert are
45 Staff to Kodiak Aleutians. October 5 and 6, because I'm
46 coordinator for Bristol Bay. October 27 and 28 because
47 Rachel and Robert are Staff to Southeast. So anywhere -- and
48 generally we always block out AFN Convention, too.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And when is that?

00449

1 MS. EAKON: 21, 22, 23.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 21, 22, 23 is AFN

4 Convention?

5

6 MS. EAKON: Yes. So anywhere but those

7 dates.

8

9 MR. DEMENTI: 14 and 15.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 14 and 15.

12

13 MS. SWAN: Yeah.

14

15 MR. DEMENTI: Thursday and Friday.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thursday and Friday. You're

18 really counting on getting done in two days, uh?

19

20 MR. DEMENTI: Well, we got Saturday.

21

22 MS. SWAN: Yeah, because I'm going to be not --

23 see the following week I know for me is zip from, you know,

24 like the 17th of October through here, so I might as well --

25 I mean through AFN and stuff, so the 14th -- did you say 14th

26 and 15th, Gilbert?

27

28 MR. DEMENTI: Uh-huh, it's Thursday and

29 Friday.

30

31 MS. SWAN: Okay.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And you'd rather have that

34 than the week prior to -- the early part of the week prior to

35 AFN and then just combine the two or you'd rather have a

36 break in between.

37

38 MR. F. JOHN: We got AFN for us lasts all

39 week, from Sunday.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, okay.

42

43 MS. SWAN: Yeah, that lasts all week.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, we'll just cross the

46 whole week off then.

47

48 MS. SWAN: Yeah.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It sounds good to me. I'm

00450

1 game. 14, 15.

2
3 MS. SWAN: Yeah.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And there is no problem if
6 we have to carry over until Saturday is there, otherwise we
7 could always start 13, 14 and 15?

8
9 MS. SWAN: No.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, 14 and 15.

12
13 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah, the 14 and 15.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We're going to do it in two
16 days.

17
18 MR. F. JOHN: Okay, good.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We won't have the backlog of
21 proposals will we?

22
23 MS. EAKON: No.

24
25 MS. SWAN: We'll start at 6:00 o'clock in the
26 morning.

27
28 MS. EAKON: We always have election of
29 officers and we'll have fisheries update and what else do we
30 have -- yeah, fish, we'll have fish.

31
32 MS. MASON: Yeah, fish.

33
34 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah.

35
36 MS. EAKON: Yeah, we'll talk about fish.

37
38 MR. F. JOHN: We going to have fish?

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, we'll eat fish and
41 talk about fish.

42
43 MS. EAKON: Okay.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, 14th and 15th,
46 Southcentral Regional.....

47
48 MS. SWAN: Where?

49
50 MS. EAKON: Where?

00451

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Where?

2

3 MS. SWAN: We got to be here early we might
4 as well come here.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Not here.

7

8 MS. SWAN: Not here, here.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They don't even have hot
11 water for tea here.

12

13 MS. SWAN: Not in this hard hotel.

14

15 MS. EAKON: So in Anchorage somewhere

16 but.....

17

18 MR. F. JOHN: Not here.

19

20 MS. SWAN: Not here.

21

22 MS. EAKON: Okay.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Boy, that was -- it wasn't
25 just my reaction, I guess. Oh, by the way Helga, I just got
26 asked whether we were going to stay the night at -- I don't
27 know if anybody's ever notified them, so.....

28

29 MS. EAKON: Everyone, let's see, everyone's
30 authorized to stay another night.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

33

34 MS. EAKON: Yes.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, so Southcentral
37 Regional Subsistence Council is on the 14th and 15th, if
38 that's okay with everybody we don't even to take a vote on
39 that.

40

41 MS. SWAN: Yeah, it's okay.

42

43 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah.

44

45 MS. SWAN: It's fine.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that, did I see
48 a hand out there? We've got a few people that we'd like to
49 thank at this point in time. Fred, would like to thank
50 somebody.

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1 MR. F. JOHN: I'd like to thank the Staff and
2 everybody that's, you know, been very supportive of us here.
3 And I really appreciate that, personally. And I want to
4 thank Gloria for all her work with the Copper River Native
5 Association and all the -- you know, the input you give me,
6 so how I make my -- you know, personally decisions and stuff
7 up here. Without her, I'd have a hard time, so I just want
8 to thank you, Gloria.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Thank you muchly
11 for being patient and being called up as often as you get
12 called up, too.

13
14 MR. F. JOHN: And these guys, too.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

17
18 MR. KOMPCKOFF: Yeah, I just want to say
19 thanks for being patient with me. I had a good time being on
20 the Board, and maybe sometimes I'll -- when everything calms
21 down with whatever's going on with me, I'll probably try to
22 run for the Board again.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Don.

25
26 MR. KOMPCKOFF: And we'll talk to you in
27 Valdez, Greg.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I would also like to
30 thank, Ben. Ben has served on the Board for a long time, in
31 fact, if I remember right, Ben, you've served on it from the
32 beginning haven't you?

33
34 MR. ROMIG: Yeah.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And we're going to miss you.
37 It's been tiring at times, I know. But thank you muchly for
38 serving with us for so long.

39
40 MR. ROMIG: Well, I've enjoyed it and I think
41 when I first got on the Council I wanted to meet interesting
42 people, and hear, you know, different ideas and that's become
43 a reality. I've enjoyed working with everybody and
44 appreciate everybody's knowledge. When you look around the
45 tables, there's hundreds of years of knowledge that are being
46 passed around and that's what I like to -- I like to reflect
47 on that and I don't like to lose touch of the Alaskan -- you
48 know, the history of Alaska and it's been very interesting.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And we definitely do need,

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1 like Fred said, to thank our Staff for the work that they've
2 put in and all of the people who have sat out there patiently
3 waiting to give their reports and to add to our information
4 that we need. And like I said before, Gloria, for being
5 willing to sit here and come up as often as we call her. I
6 hope that we've made this a process that everybody feels
7 comfortable participating in. And I know none of us always
8 get our own way, but that's part of the process, I guess.

9
10 Don.

11
12 MR. KOMPKOFF: As soon as you get ready, I'd
13 like to be the one to adjourn.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Go ahead do it.

16
17 MS. STICKWAN: If I can.....

18
19 MR. F. JOHN: Wait, Gloria was raising her
20 hand.

21
22 MR. KOMPKOFF: Okay, after everybody gets
23 through.

24
25 MS. SWAN: Gloria wants to say something.

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

28
29 MS. STICKWAN: I just wanted to thank the
30 people who are getting off the Board.

31
32 REPORTER: Thanks, Gloria.

33
34 MS. STICKWAN: I just wanted to thank Don
35 Kompkoff and Ben Romig who've served on this Board. I know it
36 couldn't have been easy for you from Cooper Landing when the
37 Kenai issue came up, it's kind of -- I guess it may be kind
38 of a conflict. I mean so I know it's not always easy to sit
39 on this, and I just want to thank you for serving, and the
40 rest of you.

41
42 MR. KOMPKOFF: You're welcome.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: With that, Don, you can make
45 a motion we adjourn.

46
47 MR. KOMPKOFF: I make the motion to adjourn.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Meeting's adjourned.

50

C E R T I F I C A T E

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2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4) ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
8 State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
9 certify:
10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 326 through 454
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of VOLUME III,
13 SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL
14 PUBLIC MEETING, taken electronically by myself on the 24th
15 day of March, 1999, beginning at the hour of 8:15 o'clock
16 a.m. at the Day's Inn Conference Center, Anchorage, Alaska;
17

18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by
20 under my direction to the best of my knowledge and ability;
21

22 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
23 interested in any way in this action.
24

25 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 5th day of April,
26 1999.
27
28
29
30

31 _____
32 Joseph P. Kolasinski
33 Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00